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Yeltsin Continues Regional Tour

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Ulan-Ude, Buryatia where he addressed workers at a "semidilapidated meat combine" and spoke on the republic's economic and environmental situation. In answer to questions concerning high prices, Yeltsin said "You can kill me, beat me, but there will be another price hike," and he "expressed confidence that the economy will be stabilized before the end of the year," INTERFAX adds. According to Moscow TV, Yeltsin is touring the region to "see for himself...just how effective the Federation Treaty is" and to work out an intergovernmental economic agreement. During his trip, President Yeltsin claimed reform opponents "are stepping up their activities" and "judgment should be passed upon the CPSU," which in the past "brought the country to destruction and the people to impoverishment" for the "complexity" of Russia's current situation.

Warheads Missing From Khabarovsk

According to POSTFACTUM, a Russian presidential representative for the Khabarovsk territory, Vladimir Desyatov, is "personally engaged with looking for 23 nuclear warheads which disappeared from military storehouses" in March of this year. For 15 years, warheads with "a power of 20 megatons were kept in Komsomolsk-on-Amur...although their owner or destination are unknown." Desyatov "refused" to give possible reasons for the ammunition's disappearance, "referring it was a state secret."

Ukraine, Dniester Talks Postponed

INTERFAX reports that Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's "summit is postponed." The final date of the summit to discuss the fate of the Black Sea Fleet and bilateral relations "has not been defined yet."

The quadripartite meeting scheduled for 29 May on the Dniester conflict was also postponed until 1 June "tentatively," reports Moscow TV. ITAR-TASS notes Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's remarks on the presence of the 14th Army in the Dniester Region; he said that the Russian Army "must be returned to Russian territory. The problem is in the timescale for the withdrawal and the conditions of the Army's stay until it is withdrawn."

Ossetian Cease-Fire Reached, Violated

Moscow TV cites an RIA report that says North and South Ossetia and Georgia reached a cease-fire agreement beginning 0000 on 28 May. "The possibility of talks on a peaceful settlement to the conflict in South Ossetia and the need to lift Georgia's fuel and transport blockade" were discussed at the 27 May Vladikavkaz meeting.

In spite of the cease-fire, however, various areas in South Ossetia came under heavy rocket-artillery fire on the night of 29 May resulting in six deaths and 11 people wounded, reports INTERFAX. Because of this situation, "South Ossetia's leadership had to postpone a visit to Vladikavkaz scheduled for May 29 to meet the North Ossetia's leaders."

Ukraine, Russia Still Differ on Nuclear Button

*PM2805115792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
28 May 92 Morning Edition p 1*

[Article by Viktor Litovkin: "Russia and Ukraine Continue Dispute Because of the Nuclear Button"]

[Excerpts] As already reported in IZVESTIYA (No. 122), the regular session of the Council of CIS Defense Ministers was held 26 May. Only the leaders of the military departments of Azerbaijan and Moldova did not attend. [passage omitted]

It emerged at the press briefing which CIS generals held after the conference that the disagreement between the Russian and Ukrainian delegations over strategic nuclear forces stationed on Ukrainian territory had remained unresolvable. As Lieutenant General Ivan Bizhan, Ukrainian deputy defense minister, stated, Ukraine, true to its international commitments, lays no claim to the nuclear button, and strategic missiles will remain under Russia's operational command, but it does reserve the right of administrative direction of those troops.

His words provoked a sharp, albeit measured, comment from Colonel General Leontiy Kuznetsov, representative of the Russian General Staff:

"The responsibility for such awesome weapons as strategic nuclear missiles should be in one pair of hands."

What lies behind the terms "administrative and operational direction?" Ukraine thinks the decision to use strategic weapons (operational command and control) can remain with Moscow, but units of the strategic forces, while in Ukraine, should form part of its Armed Forces, and officers and men should take the Ukrainian oath of allegiance. The new intakes for such units should be made up solely of citizens of the Ukrainian state and not draftees from Russia or other CIS countries.

But that raises the question, according to Russian experts, of whose orders such strategic units would ultimately execute.

Dual command in such a serious matter, no matter what the justification, is bound to raise serious concern both here and in the international community.

Nuclear Issues

Semipalatinsk Tests Information Declassified

*PM2205131592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 May 92 Morning Edition p 7*

[Report by Oleg Stefashin: "Information on Semipalatinsk Test Range Declassified"]

[Text] The Kazakhstan Cabinet of Ministers has declassified all materials containing information about the results of nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk range.

So far they have been kept in "secret" departments and only a very restricted range of people could use them. Now access to secret information is available to almost anyone interested in it.

It is quite obvious that this openness will finally make it possible not only to lift the last shrouds of secrecy surrounding the test range but will also be of serious assistance to physicians and scientists who are undertaking research in the zone of the radiological calamity.

The cabinet of ministers has made one more important decision—to prepare a comprehensive program for the study of the area adjacent to the nuclear test range and also of the people living there. It has already been stated that this entire enormous territory, including Semipalatinsk Oblast and a number of rayons of Karaganda, Pavlodar, and East Kazakhstan oblasts, will be declared an ecological disaster zone and its population will receive the status of victims.

It is expected that the government will also take a number of other measures.

'25 Other Sites' Affected

*LD2305215292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1600 GMT 23 May 92*

[Text] Apart from the Semipalatinsk testing ground, nuclear explosions were carried out at 25 other sites in Kazakhstan, Sergey Medvedev, republican minister of ecology and biological resources, has said. He also said that top secret information on the actual state of radiation pollution is to be made public in Semipalatinsk, the NEGA agency reported.

Joint Chinese Nuclear Research Center Opens

*PM1505113492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 15 May 92 p 3*

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent V. Oreshin: "Russian-Chinese Center Opens"]

[Text] Beijing, 14 May—A Russian-Chinese nuclear research center has opened in Harbin. This is reported by the XINHUA news agency.

Within the framework of the joint project, which was agreed on in December 1990, the Russian side supplied a neutron radiation source, an activation device for it, and roentgen fluorescent analysis equipment, while the Chinese side supplied the computer system.

CSCE Meets on Nagorno-Karabakh in Helsinki

LD2205172892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki, 21 May—Today a committee of senior CSCE officials ended four days of discussions on the situation in and around Nagorno-Karabakh without adopting any document. An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned that a draft decision jointly prepared by the United States and EC delegations describes the situation in the region and outlines ways of achieving a political settlement of the conflict as quickly as possible, notably through an international conference which it is planned to convene in Minsk under CSCE auspices. The draft was regarded by the majority of the 52 delegations from countries taking part in the all-European process as a compromise. Among other things, it makes it possible to resolve the impasse which has arisen as a result of a demand made by the delegations of Azerbaijan and Turkey for Armenia to be described as an aggressor state, and to have CSCE sanctions imposed on it.

However, in the concluding part of the discussions, the Armenian delegation declared that the text is unacceptable to it because it focuses attention on the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, when it is the Karabakh problem which should be examined. Furthermore, the Armenian delegation refuses to accept a document which contains a call for respect of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. It justifies its position by saying that the draft should refer to the territorial integrity of both Azerbaijan and Armenia. As a result it was not possible to adopt the text of a single decision based on consensus.

According to Yevgeniy Gusarov, head of the Russian delegation, the Russian representatives, together with the U.S. delegation, submitted a proposal that Mario Rafaelli, chairman of the Minsk conference, be instructed to hold a meeting of the participants in the forum as quickly as possible, so that the situation may be discussed and possible solutions drawn up. In other words Rafaelli has been instructed to do everything necessary to ensure that the process of a political settlement starts without delay. Unfortunately, Y. Gusarov stressed, we came very close to the collapse of this process. The actions of Russia and the United States made it possible to avoid this.

At the same time, the drama of the discussions shows that we are dealing with a very serious conflict. All states must do everything they can to get the sides to abandon military, violent methods. In this connection reports reaching Helsinki about the visit by a Russian delegation to Yerevan, which began today, were greeted by the participants in the CSCE forum with exceptionally great interest. A very great deal is expected here of Russia and its mediation, which has already produced certain positive results.

Talks Set for Rome, Minsk

OW2605132492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1235 GMT 26 May 92

[Report by diplomatic correspondents I. Porshnev, V. Shishin, and others; from "Diplomatic Panorama"—item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The representatives of 11 CSCE countries who were to hold a conference on Nagorno-Karabakh in Minsk are to gather for an emergency meeting in Rome, said a prominent member of the Russian Foreign Ministry in charge of Trans-Caucasus. The decision to hold such a meeting was taken in Helsinki recently by the CSCE Senior Officials Committee, he told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent. According to him, Rome has "the necessary technical facilities" for organizing this kind of meeting urgently.

There are "diametrical differences" in Armenia's and Azerbaijan's approaches to the entire range of settlement problems, the diplomat said. This relates to the upcoming emergency meeting too. Armenia is inclined to view it as preparations for the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, while Azerbaijan believes that the meeting is aimed at discussing "the new situation" that emerged in the region as a result of "Armenian aggression". According to Azerbaijan, after the seizure of Lachin and the shellings of Nakhichevan the conflict went beyond the limits of Nagorno-Karabakh and became "international".

Armenia's objections made it impossible for the CSCE Senior Officials Committee to adopt a final document of the Helsinki session which described the situation as "a crisis in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan", the diplomat said.

With reference to the stand taken by Russia he pointed to its being interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict. According to him, Russia has consistently stood for the soonest beginning of "serious" negotiations with a view to achieving a ceasefire "as soon as possible". This is the only way to create the necessary conditions for discussing "a full-scale settlement". The expert reaffirmed Moscow's intention to continue rendering "mediatory services" in the search for the ways to cope with the crisis. "It's necessary to convince the conflicting sides to leave the battlefield and sit down at the negotiating table", he pointed out.

Russian Delegation's Stance

LD2705220192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1227 GMT 27 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Excerpts] Helsinki, 27 May—[Passage omitted] A suggestion on the introduction of a number of adjustments to the procedure for adopting and implementing CSCE decisions, put forward by the Russian Federation delegation, was met with interest at the Helsinki meeting. In the opinion of the Russian delegation, the number of events dedicated to specific matters ought to be reduced within the framework of the all-European process, and there should be a move toward holding annual universal forums lasting no longer than one month. Their main aim would be to examine the course of the implementation of the obligations they have undertaken.

The gap, which would have been formed in the work of the CSCE as a result of a reduction of this sort, could be filled by reorganizing the structures of the all-European conference. The Russian delegation thinks that the transfer of the center of gravity of work from forums that last for months to already-existing structures could yield tangible benefits from the point of view of increasing effectiveness and efficiency, and in the financial aspect.

The mechanism of political consultations, set up by a decision of the Paris summit, ought to be at the center of the new system. However, this mechanism must be given a new quality, with an improved organizational aspect. The time has come to resolve the issue of institutionalizing it and of turning it into a consolidated body for adopting political decisions.

All three links in the mechanism—top level, ministerial, and senior officials—practically represent a political structure that should be institutionalized. It could be named a CSCE council.

According to the authors of the proposal, the work of the council could be arranged according to the following scheme:

—Meetings at head of state and government level would be held, as a rule, once in two years. At the same time, a conference to consider the course of implementation of undertaken obligations would become a "summit" preparation committee;

—Sessions at ministerial level, and not only of foreign affairs ministers, would be held no less frequently than once a year;

—Sessions at senior official level would be held monthly and their duration would be no more than 5 days. Thus, they would take the main burden of work and carry out all executive activity of the CSCE. In particular, the bureau for democratic institutions and human rights, the center for preventing conflicts, and various groups set up as necessary would mainly work at senior official level under the guidance of the council.

Russian, Turkish Views on Caucasus Assessed

*PM2205193192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
23 May 92 Morning Edition pp 1-2*

[Sergey Taranov report: "Russia and Turkey Hypnotized by Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict"]

[Text] Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis and Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev concluded their working meeting with the leadership of Armenia in Yerevan 21 May. But the chief question—will Russia support Armenia in the event of Turkish interference in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict?—remained undecided.

ITAR-TASS reports that the originally scheduled news conference by G. Burbulis on the results of the talks was canceled at the last moment. The only thing that the Russian state secretary told the assembled journalists about the question of the Russian Federation's position in the event of Turkey's military interference was this: "This is ruled out," meaning not so much Russia's military assistance as the realization of Turkish threats.

In any case it is obvious that the presence of Russian troops in Armenia is a deterrent factor for the neighboring states. It is not for nothing that the question of the timing of their withdrawal is being delayed until the indefinite future, and diplomatic expressions uncharacteristic of a military man are appearing in the vocabulary of Russia's new defense minister.

In the opinion of Pavel Grachev, there really is to be a withdrawal and reduction of the Russian troops in Armenia, and it will be carried out stage by stage. The withdrawal timing, sequence, and procedure will be agreed on at subsequent working meetings in Moscow and Yerevan.

Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan in turn believes that the Yerevan meeting may be called a political success, although "there is not yet anything in a real sense."

Armenia's position was expressed more frankly at a news conference in Moscow 21 May by Raffi Hovannisian, the republic's foreign minister. He told journalists that he had "asked the leadership of Russia to leave CIS troops on the territory of Armenia." The minister also pointed to "Turkey's ever-increasing political, economic, and military support for Azerbaijan." It follows from this that Armenia too must seek strong allies.

In our view, the rapid development of events in the Transcaucasus over the next few days or weeks will make Russia's leadership take a more clear-cut stand.

Now about another force involved in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict—the Kurds. As is known, the Kurdish majority of the Azerbaijani city of Lachin lets truck convoys through to Nagorno-Karabakh unimpeded from Armenia and is demanding the restoration of Kurdish autonomy in the region. At present, however, some Kurds support the Armenians, while others accuse them.

On 22 May IZVESTIYA received two mutually exclusive statements. Thus, the "Ronai" Kurdish cultural center in Azerbaijan asks the world community "to end the genocide against Kurds and Azeris in the zone of the conflict and to apply the sanctions provided for by the

United Nations against the aggressor—Armenia." But the other document—a statement by the council of the Kurdish intelligentsia of Armenia—states that, "starting in the fifties, representatives of the Kurdish intelligentsia in the former Soviet Union took every convenient opportunity to draw public attention to flagrant cases of the violation of the national rights of Azerbaijan's Kurdish population." It also contains an appeal to fellow countrymen to restore the Kurds' autonomy on the lands of Lachin. It is proposed that the new state formation will be loyal to Armenia and will not close the land corridor linking Armenia with Nagorno-Karabakh.

In a brief interview in Moscow with IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Lugovskaya T. Karayev, first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, said that questions connected with the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border were discussed with Russian officials. It is important to specify Russia's position on military policy, since an expeditionary corps of the Armenian national army running to several tens of thousands of men is operating on Karabakh territory and also from Armenian territory. In addition, the military hardware of the 366th Regiment has been handed over to the Armenian side. Commenting on the statement which G. Burbulis made in Yerevan on the impossibility of military aid for Nakhichevan from Turkey, T. Karayev said that it is up to sovereign Azerbaijan to decide the question of sending in troops. He regards such a statement as incitement to further develop aggression or to secure its rear. He called the military-political situation in Azerbaijan a difficult one which could lead to World War III, but "Azerbaijan will not cede a single inch of its land."

Romanian Officials Remark on Russia, Moldova

PM2805125392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Yevgeniy Bay article: "Romania Agrees To Hold Quadripartite Meeting"]

[Text] Romania has expressed its agreement to Andrey Kozyrev's proposal to hold in Chisinau on 29 May a quadripartite meeting of the heads of the foreign policy departments and national security ministries of Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, and Romania to discuss the situation on the left bank of the Dniester, according to a Romanian Foreign Ministry statement issued 26 May.

"I do not think that matters are heading toward war in Moldova," Romanian President Ion Iliescu said in an ITAR-TASS interview. "The Romanian side has no information that Moldovan President Mircea Snegur intends to declare war on Russia."

At the same time, in Iliescu's estimation, tension in the left bank regions of Moldova is being artifically fueled by "certain political forces" seeking to dismember the state. The 27% Russian population there cannot be allowed to dictate its will to the 40%-strong indigenous population.

Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, back from Lisbon where he participated in the international conference on aid to CIS states, has issued a pretty strong statement. Russia, in his opinion, according to REUTER, is seeking to keep the left bank of the Dniester under its control and is applying double standards in its policy. Moscow, according to the Romanian minister, "is keeping not one, but several teams in the field."

At the same time news agencies are reporting from Bucharest an upsurge in anti-Russian sentiment in Romania. The newspaper AZI, expressing the interests of the ruling National Salvation Front, has stated in particular that "Moscow is interfering in the internal affairs of other states and again wishes to impose its will, not realizing that the USSR no longer exists." The opposition newspaper ROMANIA LIBERA calls from its front-page: "Awake, Romania, Country in Danger!" REUTER reports that one article in the newspaper was published under the headline "Where Romanians Are Killed in Their Own Land."

It is clear that the Romanian president's statement that "tension is being fueled by certain political forces" could apply to his country. However, Romania's top leaders are avoiding making openly anti-Russian declarations. Ion Iliesciu stressed in his interview that the present events in Moldova should not affect relations between Romania and Russia.

Gorbachev's Mediation in Near East Denied

PM2805140792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

["Own Information" report from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" column: "Nobody Knows Anything About Gorbachev's Role in the Near East"]

[Text] Certain media sources are reporting that Mikhail Gorbachev was asked on behalf of the governments of Egypt and Jordan to act as mediator in settling the situation in the Near East, and that he has apparently accepted this proposal.

However, as IZVESTIYA managed to find out, the Egyptian and Jordanian Embassies in Moscow and the M.S. Gorbachev Foundation know nothing about any such proposal being put to the former USSR president.

Black Sea Fleet Issues

Representatives Meet on Black Sea Fleet

LD2805175392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 28 May 92

[By unidentified UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev, 28 May—The press center of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet has reported that Vasiliy Durdinets and Yuriy Yarov, the heads of the Ukrainian and Russian state delegations, held a working meeting today dedicated to the Black Sea Fleet. Both sides exchanged opinions on ways to resolve this problem in view of preparations for the upcoming official talks between the Russian and Ukraine state delegations.

Talks Postponed

LD2805134492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Russia and Ukraine have postponed another meeting of their delegations in Dagomys, near Sochi, concerning the future of the Black Sea Fleet. The chief of staff of the fleet, Admiral Gurinov, has said in this connection that the command tries to put down the passions around the fleet-sharing. Unfortunately, Ukraine does not observe a moratorium on unilateral actions. The republic has declared that from now on only Ukrainian conscripts would serve in the Black Sea Navy.

Ukraine Opposes Black Sea Fleet Staffing

PM2905092192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Fleet May Be Left Without Sailors"]

[Text] A new spiral of tension has arisen between Russia and Ukraine and the Ukrainian armed forces leadership and the CIS Joint Armed Forces command over the Black Sea Fleet.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Konstantin Morozov and Lieutenant General Valeriy Gubenko, chairman of the state committee for the guarding of the Ukrainian state border and commander of the Ukrainian border troops, have sent a telegram to Aviation Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, stating: "We shall take the most resolute steps to prevent the violation of our legislation and the activity of other states on Ukrainian territory.... There is reliable information that the Black Sea command, in violation of Ukrainian legislation, is staffing the fleet with the draft contingent from other CIS states.... We declare that we have the right to prevent illegal actions which could lead to undesirable consequences."

What is the thrust of the disagreements? In that until spring 1992 ships and coastal units of the Black Sea Fleet were staffed with draftee sailors and petty officers mainly on the regional principle—with Ukrainian youths. And although as of today the fleet has 92 percent of the sailors it needs the absolute majority—over 80 percent—have not yet taken the Ukrainian oath and these facts have brought no peace to the naval leadership in Moscow and Sevastopol.

This summer, having completed their military service, over 20 percent of the sailors will go ashore and leave for home and the fleet will be only 70 percent manned. There will be virtually no one to stand watch over the steam power plants and diesel generators or to stand guard over the weapons and ammunition arsenals. There are not even enough men for two full shifts.

The political situation in the Crimea is complex. Who can guarantee that following the example of the fourth army, in Baku, in which it is mainly Azerbaijanis that serve, there will not be mass seizures of these stores and weapons will not start to be fired in the 7th, Yerevan, Army, in which it is mainly Armenians who serve.

The CIS Joint Armed Forces general staff, seeking to protect the fleet as far as possible from undesirable excesses and somehow to balance the situation, has decided to send 10,000 draftees from Russia to Sevastopol. But Kiev's military leaders opposed this, Moscow military experts noted, regarding the fleet as theirs a priori.

There is one further detail to which specialists draw attention. According to the Ukrainian law on military service, service on the fleet last 18 months while under the Russian law it lasts two years. The division of the crews not only on national lines but also in terms of length of service is one more ground for the aggravation of the situation.

No one knows how events will develop. Will the Ukrainian border guards stop the military trains and ships traveling from Novorossiysk to Sevastopol to inspect them? But one thing is clear—the conflict can be extinguished only by making a political decision on the Black Sea Fleet. The talks between the government delegations of the two states are so far proceeding only sluggishly.

As of the middle of the summer the fleet will be short of thousands of sailors and petty officers. Irrespective of what flag it is under it will hardly remain combat-ready.

Military

Implications of New Defense Pact Considered

MK2605162392 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 26 May 92 p 4

[Mikhail Shchipanov article under "Burning Issue" rubric: "From the Taiga to the Baltic"]

[Text] The past 10 days have rocked the fragile peace within the Commonwealth. The Russian Armed Forces led by the young minister, Pavel Grachev, are starting to emerge decisively from the shadow of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, which have in turn, following the six republics' conclusion of a collective security agreement, found themselves left in midair with Marshal Shaposhnikov's entire staff. Typically, the members of the new pact have not so far given rise to the former misgivings regarding an excessive "Asian slant," as was the case at the end of the drafting of the stillborn Union Treaty. Russia is clearly turning toward Asia, and statements like that of J. Delors, chairman of the EC Commission, to the effect that Russia is not Europe at all only increase the realization that the new eastward-oriented policy is the correct one.

For the time being the new defense community, in the best traditions of the CIS, is reminiscent of a "cloud in uniformed trousers" [reference to Mayakovskiy poem—indicates vague, woolly concept], just a matter of good, albeit official, intentions. However, the emergent set of bilateral "framework" treaties may make Russia a guarantor of stability and security in the vast region whose southern borders are marked by a whole series of "hot spots."

The main shots have now been fired regarding Armenia's membership of the pact; by its presence in the new defense community it is as it were setting the community against Azerbaijan. However, the main attention should be focused on the structure which may, I think, be closer to the NATO structure than to the Warsaw Pact. First, the "Six" ("Six" at the moment) need to consider the dismal experience of the defunct Warsaw Pact, which, unlike the North Atlantic alliance, was not "held together" by a political organization and for that reason suffered a monumental collapse following the suspension of exclusively military relations.

However, the nuclear scene may be the most interesting element in the life of the new pact. After Russia, Kazakhstan, Byelarus, and Ukraine signed an additional protocol to the strategic offensive arms treaty in Lisbon Saturday [23 May], Kiev, Alma-Ata, and Minsk formally gave up their claims to nuclear weapons on their territory and the nuclear warheads acquired the status of "migrants." Thus, Russia, which is now the only nuclear power in the former Union, can put nuclear arms at the pact's disposal while keeping total control of their use.

In simpler terms, Moscow can provide nuclear guarantees for countries that have joined the "defense space" with it and, by way of security, can site its nuclear bases extraterritorially in Tajikistan or Uzbekistan, for instance. As the Americans did for decades in Europe. In response the pact members would solemnly pledge not to try to acquire their own nuclear weapons despite the presence of nuclear China on their doorstep. Incidentally, some of the nuclear arms now to be destroyed in Kazakhstan could also be transferred to Russian jurisdiction and remain on the local steppes.

For the time being that option does indeed seem a little fantastic. But remember the indignant ineffaceable tears that were shed during the seventies when the United States began developing its mobile rapid-response forces; yet now the Russian Army is forming the same kind of subunits. Thus, there is convergence in the Army too, gentlemen!

Pacific Fleet's Anti-Cruise Missile Exercise

PM2605150192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 May 92 p 3

[Correspondent Captain Third Rank S. Chumakov report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Fleet Going Through a Difficult Time, But Nonetheless Getting On with Its Work"]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, 21 May—For the first time in the history of the Navy there has been a unique simultaneous firing of six new-generation antiaircraft missiles at three cruise missile targets launched from small guided missile ships. Fleet Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, commander of the CIS Navy, observed the formidable sight of an airborne "enemy" attack being repulsed by the cruiser Chervona Ukraina (of the Slava class). He rated highly the actions by Vice Admiral Yu. Shumanin, leader of the firing; Captain Second Rank S. Gavrilov, staff specialist in combined unit missile weapons; Captain Second Rank Yu. Voytov, commander of the cruiser; and a number of other officers.

While going through a difficult time, the fleet is nonetheless getting on with its main work of maintaining combat readiness.

Russian-Latvian-Lithuanian Withdrawal Talks

LD2605102992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 26 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 26 May—The latest round of talks between the state delegations of Russia and Latvia began today in the settlement of Meshcherino, close to Moscow. The delegations are headed by, respectively, Zotov, the Russian Federation special envoy, and Yanis Dinevics, state minister of the Latvian Republic.

At the same time, the first meeting between state delegations of Russia and Lithuania, led by Ambassador Viktor Isakov and Aleksandras Abisala, minister without portfolio of the Lithuanian Republic, began in Moscow.

One of the main topics at both meetings is the withdrawal of former USSR troops which are under Russian jurisdiction from the Baltic states. As reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent by Sergey Zotov, the Russian side is tabling a proposal at the current meeting on the schedule for the stage-by-stage withdrawal of troops, and "is prepared to consider all constructive proposals capable of creating the material prerequisites to reduce the timeframe of the withdrawal."

According to Viktor Isakov, the issue of presenting a schedule for the withdrawal of the former USSR troops from Lithuania will be resolved in the near future.

As is known, Lithuania is insisting on the withdrawal of troops by the end of this year, Latvia by the fall of 1993. The Russian representatives do not consider these to be realistic timeframes.

CIS Armed Forces Transfers Arms to Azerbaijan

LD2805161392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1458 GMT 28 May 92

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Boris Kyufaryan for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, May 28 TASS—Armaments of three regiments and district depots of troops of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the Lenkoran District have been transferred to Azerbaijan in the recent days. ARMENPRESS NEWS AGENCY learned this on Thursday [28 May] from the staff of the Nagorno-Karabakh self-defence forces.

A spokesman of the staff believes this can lead to further heightening of the military conflict between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Baltic Attacks on Russian Armed Forces Reported

PM2605115992 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 May 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Oleg Meshkov: "Russians, Out of the Baltic!"]

[Text] Riga—The governments and public of the Baltic countries are persistently trying to promote to the fore the question of the withdrawal from their territories of the troops under Russian jurisdiction. Active use is being made of diplomatic channels and instances of direct clashes with the military have become more frequent.

In Estonia, for instance, about 2,000 members of the "Green" movement, having approached the premises of the naval training base of the former USSR in Paldiski, near Tallin, managed to penetrate the establishment. There are two training nuclear reactors here, incidentally. Fortunately, the incident ended peacefully. The "greens" spent a few hours at the base, talked with the command, and then left.

A more serious incident occurred in Latvia. On cape Kolka, five unidentified men in camouflage smocks and yellow masks armed with a pistol penetrated the guardroom of the Baltic Fleet coastal guard second observation post. They tied up the sailors and a warrant officer. The latter refused to hand over the keys to the weapons store. He was beaten and his skull was cracked. They tied up the warrant officer's mother in residential accommodation close by. Threatening to kill the woman, the forced the warrant officer to surrender the keys. The sailors stated that the attackers addressed him in Russian but with a strong accent and that they spoke Latvian among themselves. The looters took 14 Kalashnikov assault rifles, four grenades, and over 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

A few days previously not far from Riga troopers from a Latvian self-defense detachment threatened border guards with weapons, demanding that they stop digging up a communications cable which the military had used. The cable, they said, is on Latvian soil and therefore is Latvian property. The incident had dramatic consequences: A border guard was injured in the leg.

In Lithuania staffers of the Defense Ministry apprehended a convoy of Russian armed forces trucks. Here the Lithuanian soldiers fired on the truck tires. It emerged that three of the six vehicles did not have permission to drive on Lithuanian roads. Moscow responded decisively: According to information at the Lithuanian Defense Ministry, the units of the army of the former USSR stationed in the republic have been authorized to use weapons in response to acts of provocation.

Defense Factories Division Deemed 'Impossible'

LD2805125592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostankin]

[Text] Moscow, May 28 TASS—"The shareout of the former Soviet Union's defence factories following the example of the spontaneous 'privatisation' of the armed forces is impossible," Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces, told ITAR-TASS today. He is attending a seminar on the economy, military production conversion and problems of national security currently held in Moscow.

The issue of using these enterprises in the interests of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces is regularly discussed at meetings of the Commonwealth heads of state and government "within the framework of a civilised approach", Shaposhnikov said. In his view, the signing of the treaty on collective security in Tashkent opens propitious opportunities for solving the problems of the armed forces and the arms industry, including financial issues.

The seminar which brought together upwards of 500 top managers of defence enterprises and institutions winds up its work today.

Commonwealth

Energy Council Concludes Tashkent Meeting

LD2905063892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The meeting of the Energy Council of the CIS countries has today come to a close in Tashkent. The meeting has worked out a program for collective action in the energy sphere. Representatives from Armenia, Byelarus, Moldavia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenia and Uzbekistan participated. The Baltic states have expressed their readiness to take part in future meetings.

Participants in the meeting characterized as critical the energy situation on the territory of the former USSR, the NEGA agency has reported. They have proposed that the program they adopted should be examined at the forthcoming meeting of heads of government from the CIS countries.

Clive Jones, secretary general of the European Energy Charter, expressed regret that the level of cooperation in the energy sphere which existed in the former USSR and to which Europe aspired, has to a large extent been lost with the collapse of the single state.

Railroad System To Link Central Asia, Iran

PM2705152592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 25 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by K. Babayev and K. Bordyyev]

[Text] [Announcer] An accord was reached at a recent meeting in Ashkhabad to build a Trans-Asian main railroad line in a joint effort. Our correspondent in Turkmenistan has the details:

[Babayev over video of railroad construction] Actually, it would be possible to speak of the railroad as a reality right now, but for the missing link, the stretch of land separating the Central Asian Railroad from the Iranian railroad. Work on the future 130km branch from Parakhat [as heard] to Sarakhs-Mashhad is already in full swing. The builders will have to cross two water obstacles, the Karakum Canal, and the Khauz-Khanskoye water reservoir. The line will intersect gas pipelines several times and will reach the Iranian border in 1994.

Many foreign firms have expressed the wish to take part in the construction and funding of the railroad. For the time being, the Turkmenistan Government has given preference to CIS states which will, within the next two to three years, obtain access via the shortest route to the countries of the Persian Gulf and further to Turkey and Europe. Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have already contributed their first share of 60 million rubles [R].

[Kh.A. Akhmedov, director of Turkmen Railroad] I would like to say that great Russia's participation in this construction project would be very appropriate and essential. [video shows rails being laid, on-site conference, interview]

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 29 May

LD2905053492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0507 GMT 29 May 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 29 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin's tour of Siberia, situation in the Dniester region and other zones of tension and Yugoslav crisis were in focus of attention of Friday [29 May] newspapers.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA emphasised Yeltsin's statement, made during his Siberian tour to the effect that Russia did not interfere and was not involved in the Dniester conflict and that Russia shall pull out its 14th Army from the zone of conflict thus preventing herself from being drawn into a war. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA also mentioned Yeltsin's words about the necessity of lifting restrictions on land reform and ownership of land.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA stressed that during his trip Yeltsin kept conducting a sort of opinion poll asking people whether they supported reform. In contrast to the city of Barnaul, he received more positive answers in Buryatia.

A certain reduction of tension is reported from the Dniester region by KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA and NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. The two probably got the impression from Moldovan parliament's decree "On Measures to Improve the Situation in the Dniester Region in Connection with Foreign Military Intervention", believing that the document means hope. At the same time, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA found from "reliable sources" "a plan is being worked out in the Dniester region to seize all the military units, stationed in the region, and to prevent officers, who are neutral in the conflict, from controlling and commanding the units".

"A temporary ceasefire at the border between Armenia and Nakhichevan will most likely be breached soon", NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA predicted in an article, dedicated to Turkish Premier Suleyman Demirel's visit to Nakhichevan. According to the daily, 35 Nakhichevan's self-defense soldiers were killed and over 100 wounded in action since May 18. Cases of mustard gas poisoning were registered as well. Armenian Karabakh committee executive Suren Zolyan in an interview with the newspaper accused Russia of passing its arms over to Azerbaijan and added that "it is beneficial for the Russian military to have a source of tension in Nagorno-Karabakh." KRASNAYA ZVEZDA said there is little hope the conflict could end soon. The paper reported the use of chemical weapons—"cyanide composites"—by the Armenian side.

"No new military units will be stationed near the border with Finland," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA got the explanation from Russian Ministry of Defense's press centre in connection with allegations, coming from Finland. Finland maintained that Russian troops which were being withdrawn from Europe, were then relocated to the Leningrad Military District near the Finnish border.

"The leaders of the majority of Central Asian republics have turned their faces to Moscow," after having signed a treaty on joint security at the Tashkent CIS summit, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA wrote on Friday. According to the newspaper, this became possible particularly because the leaders of such regional superpowers as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan were worried about the strengthening of Iranian position in the struggle over the influence on the Central Asian states' policies. Russian policy in the region had not been determined so far, the newspaper mused. "The lingering tactics of Moscow is in sharp contrast to Tehran and Ankara's activities" and in case the "former northern metropoly is hesitant still further," a new Asian alliance will be possible.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA criticised Russia's government for being too authoritarian, at the same time supporting "the generally correct course of reform."

Former Minister of Finance of Russia Boris Fedorov in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA called Western banks to broaden their activities in Russia. The newspaper predicted the man may become chairperson of the Central Bank of Russia. Fedorov called the government's intention to reach the level of exchange of rouble to dollar at one to 30 "utopian."

Yugoslavian military conflict received wide coverage on Friday. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote that "Turkey and the West are trying to weaken Serbia, and Yugoslavia as a whole, by any means. They do not want a large, independent and powerful state on the Balkans."

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Ukraine's Kravchuk Postpone Summit

OW2905103692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 29 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The heads of Boris Yeltsin's and Leonid Kravchuk's press services told "IF" [INTERFAX] that the meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian Presidents will not take place, the summit is postponed. The Ukrainian Parliament's press secretary Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov said that the meeting is to be conducted in Dagomys according to the preliminary agreement (a Russian town-health resort at the Black Sea), but the final date of the summit has not been defined yet.

Further on Ukrainian Talks in Moscow

Envoy Meets with Gaydar

MK2905092492 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 29 May 92 p 2

[Vladimir Strakhov report: "Deputies Understood One Another]

[Text] Vladimir Lanovoy, Ukrainian vice premier and finance minster, held a news conference at Ukraine's embassy in Russia on 28 May. He had met with Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar on 27 May.

By all accounts, economists quickly find a common language. Lanovoy noted that the inflation level in Ukraine is roughly equal to Russia's. By the end of the year it will triple. He gave similar figures for the decline in industrial production too. In these conditions the last thing economists have on their mind is dividing up territory.

It cannot be said of course that the sides reached a common understanding on everything. Lanovoy did not hide his views on the prospects for the CIS: "Economically the CIS is not viable, politically maybe it may last a while longer. The main priority should be the comprehensive development of bilateral ties between the republics of the former Union."

Finance Minister Comments

OW2805172392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1559 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Economic relations within the CIS have been becoming not so much multi-lateral as bilateral. Bilateral relations have a future", the Ukrainian Vice-Premier and Finance Minister Volodymyr Lanoviyy told a news conference at the Ukrainian embassy in Moscow on Thursday 28 May after talks with the Russian government and a meeting with Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar. He believes that bilateral relations match better the statehood of all former Soviet republics and promote their march towards market economies.

Volodymyr Lanoviyy said the Ukrainian-Russian talks revolved around economic reforms, their pace and future joint projects. Common attitudes were formulated to mutual supplies and trade, as well as payments, pricing and the introduction of national currencies. Lanoviyy avoided saying anything definite about a date when Ukraine may have its own currency.

The Ukrainian official said that "Ukraine has confirmed all of its commitments to paying the debts of the former USSR" (its share totals 20%) and deplored the fact that the "question of debt payments and access to the assets has not been settled by the Vneshekonombank to this day". He said that Ukraine hoped to receive 300 million dollars of the 24 billion the West had promised Russia and other CIS member-states.

Lanoviyy confirmed that the Ukrainian Presidents, heads of parliament and government will meet early next month. The Russian government will be represented by Yegor Gaydar.

Quadripartite Meeting on Dniester Postponed

LD2905090592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The meeting of foreign and defense ministers of Russia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Romania which was planned for 29 May, and which was to discuss a settlement of the conflict in the Dniester region, is being postponed until a later date, tentatively 1 June. A RIA correspondent was told this in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian at 1645 GMT on 28 May in a similar report adds: "Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Ukrainian and Moldovan counterparts held intensive talks by telephone today. It was agreed to continue bilateral consultations."]

At present, observers from these four states are beginning work in Moldova. Their task is to monitor the cease-fire. At the same time, there is discussion of Russia's intention to withdraw the 14th Army from the Dniester region.

[Major General S.N. Stolyarov] This is not realistic and not possible for the simple reason that today the army has nowhere to take them. There are 200,000 officers and warrant officers without apartments in Russia and it is simply unwise to increase this number. This will not add to peace and calm in Russia itself.

That is the first thing, and the second thing: I would like to stress again that people who are in trouble here are placing great hopes on the army. While the army has not entered into combat actions—although there is great pressure on it to do so—it is necessary to seek ways for a peaceful, political settlement of the problem.

Russian, Moldovan Ministers To Meet in Moscow

LD2905144592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 29 ITAR-TASS—An agreement has been reached that Russian and Moldovan foreign ministers will meet in Moscow on June 1, according to the Russian Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department.

Kozyrev on Dniester Talks, Russian-U.S. Summit

LD2805161292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Skripnikov and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 28 May—"The most intensive diplomatic efforts are being made" to settle the situation in the Dniester region (Eastern Moldova), said the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs on 28 May at a meeting between the leaders of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives of the Russian public.

"A meeting about the Dniester region of ministers of foreign affairs and defense has been arranged and, in theory, agreed for 29 May," said Andrey Kozyrev.

[Moscow ITAR-TASS in Russian at 1415 GMT on 28 May in a similar report adds: "The leader of Russia's foreign policy department stressed that Russia's Foreign Ministry will, in the Dniester region with all its energy, counter the 'situation slipping into the unacceptable channel of armed confrontation.'

"In Andrey Kozyrev's view, the top priority task for Russia's diplomacy as a whole, is to prevent the emergence of a further conflict like the one now taking place in Yugoslavia."]

The question of withdrawing the 14th Army from the Dniester region, noted the minister, stems from the fact that it is a Russian Army and must be returned to Russian territory. The problem is in the timescale for withdrawal and the conditions of the Army's stay until it is withdrawn.

Preparations for the Russian-American summit meeting are in full sway and my meeting with Secretary of State Baker in Lisbon was devoted to discussing this, the minister went on to say. The focus of attention for the presidents of the two countries will be matters of the new political relations between Russia and the United States, which, according to Andrey Kozyrev, "will find expression in a major political document."

Moreover, noted the minister, there will be a discussion of problems linked to nuclear disarmament since a formula on strategic offensive weapons has been reached that enables the four republics of the former Soviet Union to take part in the mechanisms for implementing this agreement and at the same time envisages registering the nuclear-free status of three of these republics, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus.

The possibility is opening up of a rapprochement between the positions of Russia and the United States on the basis of proposals put forward by Presidents Yeltsin and Bush regarding further profound cuts in strategic offensive weapons in the interests of the security of both sides, stressed the head of Russia's foreign policy department.

St. Petersburg Ministry Denies Terrorist Report

LD2905101692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 29 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] St Petersburg May 29 TASS—The St. Petersburg Security Ministry's press department has refuted a NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA report about "raids against St. Petersburg's Arabic community" and the arrests of "three or four students of Palestinian origin" at the moment of preparation "of a series of terrorist attacks against some Western consular officers". The reports are nothing but fabrication, security ministry's organ "St. Petersburg bulletin" wrote.

The St. Petersburg anti-terrorist department together with the Russian Security Ministry are probing into the affair of an Arab students who tried to use forged documents and leave Russia for Scandinavian countries, the press department said.

Further on Latvian Talks on Troop Withdrawal

Ambassador on Latvian Talks

LD2505154892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0730 GMT 25 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 25 May—At the talks between Russian and Latvian delegations, to be held in Moscow from 26 to 28 May, the Russian side will propose the creation of a "constant and regular negotiating machinery between the two countries, capable of quickly establishing a legal basis, in treaty form, for bilateral relations." This was disclosed by roving ambassador Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation at the talks with the Latvian Republic, in an interview he gave to an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

He said that proceeding from the objective of establishing truly friendly and cooperative relations with

Latvia, which has been set by the country's leadership, the Russian delegation will aim to ensure that Russian-Latvian relations fully agree with the Helsinki process and all-European efforts to build a secure and democratic Europe and to form a common legal, economic, and cultural space on the European continent. Sergey Zotov said the Russian delegation will continue to pay special heed to guarantees for the legal and social protection of the Russian-speaking population, protection of the rights and interests of Russian Federation citizens living in Latvia, development of mutually beneficial economic cooperation, settlement of property rights, and the planned withdrawal of troops with a realistic timetable, without harming the security of either side or jeopardizing the interests of strategic stability and the consolidation of an atmosphere of trust in mutual relations.

Sergey Zotov particularly stressed that work to complete the drafting of an agreement on a stage-by-stage withdrawal of forces and their legal status during the withdrawal could only proceed normally if Latvian authorities guarantee that the escalation of provocative actions will be halted. The blood of a Russian soldier has already been shed as a result of these provocations, the head of the Russian delegation recalled.

The Russian ambassador reiterated that Russian forces in the Baltic republics pose no threat whatsoever to the independence of states in the region. They are not interfering in their internal affairs and will not do so. Russia does not intend to manipulate the troop withdrawal problem, to turn it into a means of pressuring the Balts, he said. We will not, however, accept any attempt to resolve the question of the troop withdrawal in an uncivilized way, Sergey Zotov stressed.

Participants Noted

LD2705084992 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0430 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Regular talks on the withdrawal of the former Russian Army from Latvia are beginning. A regular round of talks on the withdrawal of the Army from the territory of Latvia began in Moscow today [26 May]. Participating in the talks on the Latvian side are: Janis Dinevics, the head of the delegation and minister of state; Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis; and Dainis Turlajs, commander of the defense forces.

The Latvian side has submitted a draft agreement on the schedules and dates for the Army withdrawal. The agreement first concerns the units to be withdrawn from the garrisons, that is, freeing the towns of Latvia from the Army, and also the matter of taking over property, which of late has become especially exacerbated.

The Latvian side has expressed a demand for setting the final date for withdrawal as September 1993, and October of this year as the date for the withdrawal of the troops from the capital, Riga. Experts express doubts that Russia will be willing to accept these dates.

Russia Submits Withdrawal Schedule

LD2705103792 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2000 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpts] On 26 May in Moscow, talks between the official delegations of Latvia and Russia began. Peteris Austrums will review their course specially for our information:

[Austrums] A delegation of the Latvian Government arrived in Moscow with Janis Dinevics at its head, in order to continue, or in fact, to start talks with the Russian Federation on an extensive range of questions, in particular on the problems of the Army withdrawal. [passage omitted]

The Russian side submitted the schedule, demanded by Latvia a long time ago, according to which, from the standpoint of the Russian side, it would be possible to withdraw the troops.

The schedule looks as follows:

Some 30 percent of the troops may be withdrawn in the first year, that is in 1992. Then, around the same amount in 1993-94, and the remainder, in fact almost half of the troops which are stationed in the Baltics, the Russians envisage to withdraw in the period until 1999.

Such a schedule is of course absolutely unaccepatable to Latvia, and this was also reported. Tomorrow, however, work will evidently continue in the groups of experts of various branches in order to attempt to somehow bring the positions of both sides closer.

Overall it may be said that the talks proceeded in a businesslike, but not at all friendly or very constructive atmosphere. One of the Russian side's very serious warnings was that Russia would discontinue any talks on the Army withdrawal if an escalation of provocations against the Russian soldiers continues in Latvia. Here Russia means the occurrences with the customs, the land defense force men, and the shot big toe on the environs of Riga [incident in which Russian soldier received gunshot wounds to the foot while trying to steal cabling equipment]. Here at the highest level it has been decided that if this behavior continues the talks would be discontinued.

At the moment our delegation is preparing for tomorrow's round of talks in various groups and on various subjects—on economic, military, and socio-humanitarian questions. It is anticipated that the talks will continue until Wednesday afternoon [27 May], when a news conference will be held at the Latvian Embassy, and we will be able to more or less accurately learn about the results of the talks. [passage omitted]

More on Troop Withdrawal

PM2805140192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Irina Litvinova report: "Latvian-Russian Talks in Moscow"]

[Text] Delegations from Latvia and Russia came to the table for the next round of intergovernmental talks in Moscow 26 May.

Latvia's Deputy Foreign Minister Marinsh Virsis said that various problems—humanitarian, economic, and financial—will be discussed. However, for the Latvian delegation, the number one issue is the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic and the specification of deadlines for completing this process. M. Virsis considers it acceptable for the withdrawal of troops from Latvia to end in September 1993.

Everybody knows that the sides' positions on deadlines for withdrawing Russian troops from Latvia did not draw any closer at the preliminary meetings between experts. Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, commander of the Northwestern Group of Forces and the Russian Federation's official representative, told journalists that the Latvian side hardened its position suddenly and dramatically at the expert meetings in Moscow prior to the talks, and all compromises which had been reached were nullified.

On the first day of talks, the official newspaper DIENA carried an item which may provide the key to understanding the reasons for the Latvian side's change of position. Entitled "U.S. Politicians Change Their Attitude Toward Russian Army's Withdrawal from Latvia," it describes the fruitful visit to the United States by Latvia's Deputy Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis. In his words, none of the people he met in the United States pointed any longer to the difficulties in resettling the troops being withdrawn, nor did they recommend cooperation or patience in resolving this question at the talks, and no mention was made of complaints regarding violations of human rights in Latvia. The Latvian side's desire to render offers of assistance conditional upon advancing the deadlines for withdrawing troops from the Baltic Region was perceived with understanding. While in the United States, Valdis Pavlovskis talked about the Latvian government's intention to secure a withdrawal by the Russian Army within 18 months.

The talks in Moscow will last three days. It is expected that a Latvian-Russian communique will be signed.

Talks Continue

OW2705150192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1357 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The talks between the state delegations of Russia and Latvia continued May 27 at the premises of the health resort Meshcherino near Moscow. The Russia delegation is headed by special ambassador Sergey Zotov, the Latvian by state minister Janis Dinievic.

The Latvian Embassy in Moscow informs Baltfax that apart from the problems relating to the withdrawal of troops of the former USSR the parties are addressing economic, humanitarian and other issues. This Wednesday [27 May], several specially appointed groups of experts initiated their joint efforts aimed at making a detailed analysis of all these issues.

May 28, the Latvian Embassy in Moscow will host a press conference on the results of the talks.

Disagreements Cited

LD2805162592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—Russian and Latvia disagreed on terms of troops pullout from the Baltic state during the talks between their state delegations in Moscow on May 26-28.

Russia suggested to withdraw its 58 thousand-strong troops from the former Soviet republic in three phases by 1999, Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation said at a press conference on Thursday [28 May]. But Latvia insisted that all troops leave the republic by September 1993, and are withdrawn from Riga, the Latvian capital, by October 1992.

However, Janis Dinevic, head of the Latvian delegation, said the republican experts would discuss the Russian proposal and advance their own suggestions on how to speed up the withdrawal of the major Russian military contingent, stationed in the Baltic states. Latvia insists that the troops take all the hardware and ammunition with them, but leave immovables in the republic.

The two former Soviet republics also disagreed on the issue of international observers who would monitor the pullout, according to a Latvian proposal. Russia rejected it, but it was finally agreed that experts from third countries can be included into the teams working on the withdrawal schedule.

Discussions of economic, social and humanitarian issues were more successful and the two delegations agreed on a list of agreements which are to be worked out in the near future.

Latvian Leader on Demands

OW2805213492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1848 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Commenting on the results of the Latvian-Russian negotiations held in Meshcherino near Moscow on May 26-28, the leader of the Latvian delegation, State Minister Janis Dinevics, said no agreement had been reached on any of the key issues. Dinevics, who was speaking at a press conference in the Latvian embassy in Moscow today (May 28), stressed, in particular, that Latvia could not accept the year 1999 as the deadline for the withdrawal of the troops of the former USSR, as suggested by Moscow.

Latvia insists that the withdrawal of the troops be finished in 1993, and that the divisions stationed in its capital, Riga, be withdrawn by October 1992. It also refuses to grant the Russian troops the status of immunity similar to that enjoyed by diplomats.

Neither did it prove possible to resolve the disagreements over the armed forces' real estate on Latvian territory. Latvia is claiming all of it, whereas Russia refuses to give Latvia any of what has been built for the armed forces after 1940.

Dinevics said, however, that the entire real estate of the armed forces could not compensate for the 40-bn-ruble damage done to Latvia by the forces' presence.

The leader of the Russian delegation, Ambassador at Large Sergey Zotov, described the deadlines for the withdrawal of the troops suggested by Latvia as unrealistic for many reasons. Thus, he said 1,120 trains would be necessary for this, which meant the process would take 6-7 years.

Lithuanian, Russian Delegations Meet For Talks

Talks Begin

LD2605150792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 26 May 92

[Report from Moscow by ELTA special correspondent Balys Bucelis]

[Text] A meeting of the Lithuanian and Russian state delegations opened on 26 May in Moscow. The Lithuanian delegation is led by Minister [without portfolio] Aleksandras Abisala, the Russian delegation by Ambassador for Special Assignments Viktor Isakov. The delegations include parliamentarians and ministers of both sides. The meeting is attended by a large group of experts.

Opening the meeting Viktor Isakov proposed to discuss the whole range of issues included in the Russian-Lithuanian treaty on the bases of interstate relations. He singled out among them political, humanitarian, and diplomatic problems.

Alekandras Abisala stressed in his opening speech that the Lithuanian delegation is ready to discuss many issues, but at present, the most important to Lithuania is the withdrawal of troops under Russia's jurisdiction from the territory of Lithuania. As is known, meetings of experts which have taken place in Moscow and Vilnius on these issues did not yield tangible results. It does not seem that in this meeting either Russia intends seriously to examine this issue.

In a 25 May interview with an ITAR-TASS agency correspondent, Isakov said that so far, the Russian Government has not solved the terms of the army's withdrawal from Lithuania.

The procedure of the meeting was discussed in the morning session, questions which the delegations will discuss first of all were singled out. It is expected that the meeting will continue for two days.

'Constructive' Discussion Expected

LD2705125692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Negotiations between the Lithuanian and Russian state delegations continue in Moscow on 27 May. We will have a report about any results later, after 1700, when the heads of the delegations, Minister Aleksandras Abisala and Ambassador Viktor Isakov, give a news conference.

Yesterday's results do not give much ground for hope because, as the head of the Russian delegation pointed out to the BALTIC NEWS SERVICE correspondent, Vilnius is prepared to negotiate only on the military issues and demands that the military units be withdrawn from Lithuania this year. Viktor Isakov, Russian ambassador at large, said that Russia has proposed that the range of the problems under discussion be expanded to include economic and humanitarian questions in addition to the question of Kaliningrad Oblast. All these issues, according to the leader of the Russian delegation, are embraced by the Russian and Lithuanian treaty which came into force on 4 May this year.

If Russia is negotiating solely in order to blame Lithuania for not being constructive and for not being ready for negotiations, it is playing the same kind of propaganda game the Soviet Union used to play with us. This is the comment by Supreme Council spokesman Audrius Azubalis on the reproach by Russian delegation head Isakov, who said that Vilnius is not ready for a dialogue. The main topic of negotiations for Lithuania is the withdrawal of Russian troops, and we are prepared for a constructive discussion on this issue.

Lithuanian Official 'Pessimistic'

OW2705144892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1357 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Lithuanian delegation at the talks with Russia Mr Aleksandras Abisala in his interview for Baltfax was pessimistic about the progress in the current talks. In his words, the negotiating parties have been adhering to the old positions: Lithuanian delegation demanding that the troops of the former Soviet Union leave the territory of the Republic by the end of 1992, their Russian counterparts "still being reluctant to produce any coordinated time-table for the troops withdrawal." The two official delegations are completing this round of talks in Moscow this Wednesday [27 May].

At the same time, head of Russia's delegation at the talks Viktor Isakov indicated to Baltfax that during the talks the Russian delegation offered for discussions a wide range of problems envisaged by the recent Agreement concluded by the governments of the two countries. The Lithuanian delegation, however, Viktor Isakov noted, was not prepared to address any of those issues, insisting that the talks focus exclusively on the problem of the Russian troops withdrawal from the territory of Lithuania by the end of 1992.

At 5 p.m., in the building of the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow, the Lithuanian delegation is holding a press conference regarding the outcome of their talks with their Russian counterparts.

Russian Ambassador Comments

LD2705214292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] A 2-day meeting of the Lithuanian and Russian state delegations ended 27 May in Moscow. [Indistinct sentence omitted].

ELTA correspondent Balys Bucelis was told by the Lithuanian charge d'affaires in Russia, Egidijus Bickauskas, that the talks [words indistinct]. The Russian delegation attempted to embrace many issues at once, striving to push the main issue on the withdrawal of the army back as far as possible. The impression is created that [words indistinct] to understand that good-neighborly relations, prospects of economic cooperation, and other state affairs depend on this. They atttempt with diplomatic [word indistinct] to suggest that the issue of the army is the same as, for instance, problems of ecology or customs.

However, our delegation proved that the issue of the army withdrawal was the most important, and talks on this topic began to be more concrete. However, the negotiations will be very difficult, stressed Egidijus Bickauskas.

The Russian ambassador for special assignments, Viktor Isakov, said: The army problem has been solved. It is leaving, it is leaving Germany, and is completing its withdrawal from Poland. It will leave Lithuania, too. We have proclaimed this obligation to Lithuania and to the world. Nobody should have any doubt about it. However, we cannot drive the officers' families into empty fields [words indistinct] We wish foreign countries to help us. I think that the Lithuanian Government will take our difficult economic situation into consideration.

Delegation Issues Statement

LD2705213292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] ELTA publishes today a statement by the Lithuanian state delegation:

The Lithuanian state delegation for negotiations with the Russian Federation on the withdrawal of the army regrets that the obligations by the Russian Federation contained in the communiques of the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation are not yet being fulfilled:

First, to withdraw from February 1992 the army from the Republic of Lithuania's territory, first of all, from its capital Vilnius; not to violate the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania; and for Russian army units, until their withdrawal, to strictly observe the laws of the Republic of Lithuania and the decisions of the Lithuanian Government.

All this constitutes a threat to democracy and stability, to the security of the Lithuanian people, to normal civilian and economic life, and hampers reform and foreign investment in Lithuania.

We are especially concerned that Russia, crudely violating international law, is still not withdrawing its army from the Lithuanian state border with third countries in spite of repeated requests by the Republic of Lithuania. We are concerned about the continuing damage inflicted by the Russian army to the Lithuanian environment, especially the destruction of forests and the failure to return illegally seized property.

We are suspicious that the negotiations, which do not yield results, are held to cover up the delay in army withdrawal. [Word indistinct] international political support is essential to the withdrawal of the former Soviet, and now Russian, army from the Republic of Lithuania and other Baltic countries.

The Lithuanian state delegation expresses its special concern about the threatening introduction of large new contingents of the Russian army to the territory of the Republic of Lithuania in the nearest future. We hope that Russia will show, in a concrete manner, its political good will.

Russians 'Displayed Goodwill'

OW2805131892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1228 GMT 28 May 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama" by correspondents I. Porshnev and A. Pershin; transmitted via KYODO

[Text] *** At the talks with Lithuania concluded in Moscow on Wednesday [27 May] the Russian delegation displayed goodwill, Viktor Isakov chief Russian negotiator, told DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent. The Lithuanians, he explained, came to Moscow for the purpose of discussing "only one" issue: the withdrawal of Russian troops from their country. However it had been agreed to consider the entire range of relations between Russia and Lithuania, "including problems connected with property, fishery and cooperation between law-enforcing agencies".

Since the Lithuanian delegation included solely military experts, Russian delegates had an option: either suspend the talks or confine them to discussions on procedural questions and meetings of the working group on troops withdrawal. Finally they opted for the latter. The Russian delegation submitted several draft documents on concrete directions of bilateral cooperation as an official supplement to the protocol signed at the talks.

With reference to the problem of Russian troops withdrawal from Lithuania V. Isakov, said that this issue is under consideration. The head of the Russian delegation has an impression that "the Lithanians are in no haste to resolve this issue either". "They are obviously awaiting June 14, when a referendum on the need to withdraw Russian troops as early as this year and pay a compensation for the damage done by the former Soviet Army is held in Lithuania", he said.

According to V. Isakov, Lithuania doesn't always strive to understand the difficulties connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops. "Russian troops have no intention of remaining in Lithuania. Nevertheless we cannot really be expected to remove them to a field and leave them to dwell in tents", the diplomat said.

He believes that the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania and other Baltic states should be considered in the "context of the general situation when tens of thousands of servicemen are returning to Russia from Germany, Hungary, Poland and other countries". "Unfortunately, our Lithuanian colleagues do not want to understand this", V. Isakov stressed.

With reference to Lithuania's demand that a compensation be paid for the damage caused by the presence of the former Soviet Army (according to the leader of the Lithuanian delegation Aleksandras Abishala it amounts to 150 billion dollars), V. Isakov pointed out that Lithuania "retained all the former USSR property: ports, railways and plants".

According to V. Isakov, the demand that a compensation be paid for the damage caused by the presence of Soviet troops on Lithuanian soil will be justified only if Lithuania itself agrees to pay a compensation to Russia for part of the former USSR property.

No Agreement Reached

LD2905043392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1804 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Kazis Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius May 28 TASS—A meeting of state delegations of Lithuania and Russia failed to achieve any results. This is how Minister Without Portfolio Aleksandras Abisala, head of the Lithuanian delegation, assessed the two-day meeting held in Moscow and its work. Addressing a news conference on Thursday [28 May], Abisala substantiated his opinion by saying that the participants in the meeting "did not dwell sufficiently on problems of withdrawing the Army of the former USSR from Lithuania". He made public a statement of the Lithuanian government delegation which expressed regrets that Russia "fails to comply with obligations to withdraw the Army from Lithuania, above all from the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, envisaged by the February 1992 communique of Lithuania and Russia".

"It will only be possible to negotiate with Russia in earnest after it announces the timeframe and schedule of troop withdrawal. This has not been done at the meeting", Abisala said.

In addition, Abisala said that according to unofficial information, Russia intends shortly to bring into the Lithuanian territory a military contingent numbering about 15 thousand.

Abisala also said that "Russia avoids discussing the compensation for the damage done to Lithuania by the Army". He said Lithuania estimates the damage caused by the Army at 150 billion U.S. dollars. He noted that the sum may be even larger after the Army cantonment are restored to Lithuania and their ecological state is assessed.

Abisala and Lithuanian Minister of the Environment Audrius Butkiavicius made virtually the same assessments of the meeting of the state delegations when they spoke at an evening meeting of the Lithuanian parliament's session.

Further Assessment by Kozyrev on Yugoslav Trip

Urges 'Goodwill'

PM2805180492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 92 First Edition p 7

[ITAR-TASS report: "One 'Little Thing'—Goodwill"]

[Text] As already reported, Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev visited the region of conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina and held talks with leaders of all six former republics of the SFRY.

In a talk with journalists on board the aircraft on the way home, Andrey Kozyrev, answering an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, expressed satisfaction that he "was able to do everything to help Serbia and the other republics of the former SFRY to find a way out of the crisis not under any kind of pressure or in the shape of conceding to any threats from outside, but as a result of displaying their own goodwill."

As for the negative side of the visit, unfortunately, he said, one has the impression that forces that do not understand good offices and advice are active in the region. They seem to pin their faith solely on superiority in strength.

Notes 'Success'

LD2805203292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1730 GMT 28 May 92

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by commentator Vladimir Pasko; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The situation in Yugoslavia continues to remain one of the central topics in the media. Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who had been there on a peace mission, returned last night from Yugoslavia. Our commentator Vladimir Pasko met him immediately upon his arrival. We suggest you listen to a recording of the conversation that took place.

[Pasko] No matter how we follow what is happening in Yugoslavia, no matter how painful it may be, we are looking at it in the light of what is happening in our country—by that I mean Nagorno-Karabakh and Moldova. Was the trip a success?

[Kozyrev] The trip was a success in the sense that we showed the interest that we have, and this was understood. Russia has immense historical ties with each of the republics—you cannot imagine how, say, in Montenegro, or in Macedonia or Slovenia, they value ties with Russia. We, of course, showed that this is not a case of Ivan forgetting his roots, and that we intend to develop relations in the sense, of course, of strengthening economic relations, because at the moment there are all kinds of difficulties on this path, but, politically speaking, this was very important. We were one of the first there—and in a number of instances the very first. This was correctly understood there that this was how it should be, and if someone should be the first there, then this should be Russia.

Also understood, and well received, was our desire to take part independently, and in our own way, in the search for a peaceful settlement. This can be perfectly well explained, first by the historic inclinations of the peoples and their Slavic community; second, of course, by the fact that no one understands as we do what post-communist problems are like; and, third, by the very great trust in a democratic Russia in the sense that whereas the West began, as it were, with threats, and, in the main, uses economic confetti or truncheons, then Russia comes as a true friend who could advise them. Advice is always easier to listen to. That was our advantage.

Unfortunately, of course, we once again became convinced that the system that has been abandoned—a system with all its differences—was also a problem that cannot be solved just like that; second, the fact that no one has a magic wand for this; and, third, the fact that the complete absence of political culture is being replaced by extremist passions. Many former communist figures are trying to find a new stronghold of nationalism—an extreme nationalism at that. Of course, this is stirring up all these patriotic feelings that turn into the betrayal of one's own or neighboring peoples—fraternal peoples, too—and to the kind of catastrophe that we saw in Bosnia-Hercegovina. This was terrible destruction. We went through one town, it was simply monstrously destroyed in some areas—razed to the ground.

Besides, even during our time there, there were incessant cannonades from automatic weapons, isolated shots, and mortar shelling. This did not let up for a single moment. We asked all sides.... [changes thought] and I had a mandate from Belgrade to agree on a cease-fire in the airport area at least and to unblock the airport. We met with absolutely everyone, with representatives of the Serbian community—not only with the Serbs in Serbia, but also with Serbs in Bosnia itself—with representatives from Croatia, Moslem representatives, and Izetbegovic, the chairman of—let us say—the State Council of Bosnia-Hercegovina itself. In short, we honestly and scrupulously, carefully, and respectfully, held talks with everyone and explained everything to everyone.

As you know, today we left there and once again the bloodshed has started. I believe this now is a challenge to Russia as a great power. We have done everything we could. We went to meet them. Once more, I have confirmed to the ambassador here in Yugoslavia that we are acting as friends. We want to help, but there is no need to underestimate the fact that we are talking about a great power, a great friend. However, a great friend also clearly needs to speak in a different fashion as soon as it is required.

Why with Belgrade? Belgrade is not 100 percent responsible for what has happened, without a doubt. That would be an oversimplification. The fact that the West has in an oversimplified way assumed the stance that there is only one guilty party is also incorrect. Incidentally, the West is itself guilty in the way that for too long they did not understand and did not want to get to the bottom of things. Even now, there are few of them who have been there and who know the situation, so it is not the case that our stance is the same as that of the West. It is also very clear that Belgrade is today the leading power. It is the power that has a great influence on the way the situation is developing, and now they need to use this influence as we have advised them to do so. Our advice has been to seek a cease-fire and to seek a political settlement because violent reprisals and violent pressure will not lead anyone anywhere. It is a simple fratricidal war there, because the Moslems.... [changes thought] they are not a different nationality, they are actually Serbs just the same, but under the Turkish yoke they simply adopted the Moslem faith. It is simply a fratricidal, Slavic war.

Therefore, I think we have a full moral right and duty to say now that if you do not want to act in good faith as we have advised in a friendly fashion, then let us use a different language. I hope this will be accepted in the near future—we are talking of within the next few days—and that our friends, so to speak, in Belgrade will do everything that they can and that other forces will then follow this example, I think. If not, then we will speak to them in a different language.

I believe at least that our means of persuasion have now reached such a stage that we need to back them up with fairly harsh political actions. Of course, we are not talking about any sort of military measures, but of political positions. So that gives you a full account. There is a positive side to it, but there are also substantial misgivings.

[Pasko] Andrey Vladimirovich, there are two courses for the efforts surrounding a Yugoslav settlement: one is ours, which we have unequivocally taken up, to reach a settlement through political means, and the second is sanctions. Which course will eventually triumph?

[Kozyrev] We have done everything possible to see that the political line should take precedence, but if our friendly voice of common sense is not effective, then we will of course have to go to sanctions, but not because the West insists on this, but because, at the end of the day, we need to be able to stand up for what we have demanded, particularly as this demand stems from the genuine interests of the Slavic peoples.

[Pasko] Now, at the very time that you have been on your tour, there has been a great deal of talk in the West about the establishment of special forces to settle such conflicts. Moreover, it is being said that these forces ought to have the right to use arms. This idea has not yet been fully outlined, but, nevertheless, what is your view of the possibility of the emergence of such forces?

[Kozyrev] I think this idea definitely needs to be worked on. They must not be some kind of unilateral force, but international forces capable not only of keeping the peace—in other words, of being in places where there already is a truce—but forces capable of establishing or restoring peace. This is in no way a new idea, and it is directly envisaged in the UN Charter. The Security Council has had such powers ever since 1945—the fact that it has virtually never used them is another matter—but a process of increasing the functions of these peacekeeping forces, which used to be just observers, is already under way now. In Cambodia, for example, they now have the task of keeping order. In other words, they are performing administrative functions for the first time. In a number of cases they are already fulfilling the role of disarming particular warring units—on a voluntary basis, admittedly. In principle, I believe this is what was intended right at the start. The point is that they must not be unilateral operations, but operations based on international law, as enshrined in the UN Charter. Today all states associate themselves with the United Nations—and thereby assume these obligations and agree with them—and I think this is right. We have to realize the potential contained in the UN Charter, but how this is to be done in practice is still the subject of negotiations.

Warns Belgrade

LD2805161892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev has ended his visit to the former republics of Yugoslavia and returned to Moscow just as the quadripartite talks on the Dniester region are to start in Chisinau. A report from Macedonia says the local leadership there is disappointed because Kozyrev has not promised to establish diplomatic relations with that republic. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent in the aircraft on his way home, Kozyrev took stock of his visit.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Alyokhin] Andrey Kozyrev reached Sarajevo, his main destination, in a Yugoslav Army airplane that landed at a small military airfield a few kilometers from the city. He then traveled in an armored vehicle belonging to the French contingent of the UN forces. By local standards it was relatively calm in the city itself. However, in the mountains automatic rifles and machine guns could be heard. There was also the heavy thumping of artillery. [passage omitted]

The results of the talks with the sides involved in the conflict inspire optimism. The Russian plan for a peaceful settlement has been accepted. The hostile sides agreed that in addition to the cease-fire, the blockade of the Sarajevo airport will be lifted, and the Yugoslav Army troops in Bosnia-Hercogovina will be allowed to leave the republic without any problems. However, blood was shed again yesterday. [passage omitted]

[Kozyrev] To a considerable degree, the origins of the Yugoslav crisis are to be found in the communist system, which we ourselves are now trying to dismantle. It seems that these forces only understand the language of dictate, while staking their belief in superior strength. Today's events in Sarajevo show that they are perhaps underestimating the real significance of the role of Russia as a great power. We have quite a few levers and we are using them. I would like it to be understood in Belgrade, too, that friendly relations do not mean tolerating forces that patently refuse to understand democratic principles upon which the European community has been built. [end recording]

Explains Stance on Macedonia

PM2805192892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Maksim Yusin report: "Russia in No Hurry To Recognize Macedonia Officially"]

[Text] Skopje and Moscow—The sensation that was expected from Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Skopje never materialized. The Russian foreign minister did not make a clear and unequivocal announcement of recognition of Macedonia. Although on the eve of the trip both officials in Skopje and many diplomats in Kozyrev's entourage were inclined to the view that the recognition would take place. There were even reports in the Macedonian press that Yeltsin had already made a decision on this point and had signed the relevant document 16 May.

Nonetheless, Russia preferred not to force the pace. "On the question of Macedonia we are caught between the devil and the deep blue sea," Kozyrev admitted on the plane on the way back to Moscow from Skopje. On the one hand, there is apparently no reason to refuse to recognize Macedonia, especially since, with the other former Yugoslav republics, we have either already established diplomatic relations, or are preparing to do so in the near future. On the other hand, Greece is displaying unprecedented stubbornness, fighting the world community single-handed and arguing that "the 'Skopje republic' has no historical right to call itself Macedonia." The argument has developed into a serious interstate conflict. Greece has blockaded the Macedonian border and cut economic ties.

"We do not fully understand Athens' approach," Kozyrev said, adding that Greece nevertheless remains a friendly country, and it is undesirable to mar relations with it. As the minister said, Moscow intends to wait a little while longer before making a final decision. His caution is probably to some extent due to Greece's EC membership. It cannot be ruled out that if Russia is the first of the great powers to announce its recognition of Macedonia and thereby sets an example to others, Athens will try to block economic aid from the Community. Although Greece can hardly be said to have a decisive say in the matter.

Russia naturally has no objection in principle to recognizing Macedonia. "We regard your republic as a sovereign and independent state," Kozyrev assured Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov. At a press conference in Skopje, when asked whether Russia intends to establish diplomatic relations with Macedonia as it has just done with Slovenia and Croatia, the minister replied: "Yes, of course." Eventually.

The majority of European countries are in the same ambivalent position. As Macedonian Foreign Minister Denko Maleski said during his conversation with Kozyrev, the leaders of EC countries have put the declaration on recognizing his republic in the top drawer of the desk, so as to be able to bring it out at any moment. The moment has not yet come.

Hitherto, on the question of recognizing the former Yugoslav republics, we have always been one step behind the European Community and half a step behind the United States. This was due to the special relations that linked Russia and Belgrade. It is different with Macedonia. Skopje has no powerful patrons such as the Slovenes and Croats had in Germany, Italy, and Austria. Greece's desperate resistance is paralyzing the EC, whose members prefer to make the decision to recognize a given state collectively (this happened with the former Yugoslav republics, the Baltic countries, and the CIS countries). The United States also has no desire to come into conflict with Athens—its NATO ally—over the Macedonians.

In this situation Russia could well take the initiative. Especially since neither Washington nor the leading European countries objects. Rather the reverse, they are ready to follow Russia's example, and are only waiting for it to be the first to take a step that will sooner or later be inevitable.

Khasbulatov Cancels Talks With Slovak Chairman

LD2705143592 Prague Stanice Ceskoslovensko Radio Network in Czech 1400 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Slovak National Council Chairman Frantisek Miklosko has ended his visit to Moscow. The purpose of the visit was to establish whether Russia is ready, from a legislative point of view, for economic cooperation.

Miklosko was scheduled to meet with his Russian counterpart Ruslan Khasbulatov. However, Khasbulatov canceled the meeting at the last moment because of his trip to Kaliningrad Oblast 28 May.

According to Frantisek Miklosko, the Moscow talks showed that there should be no major obstacles to penetration into the Russian market. It is necessary to transfer contacts to the level of individual enterprises, however.

Further on Turkish Prime Minister's Visit

Demirel Replies to Reporters

TA2505204492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] A red telephone line will be established between Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel and Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin. Demirel has said that the fact that Armenia has based its existence on a policy of aggression and expansionism is unfortunate for this country and a cause for concern for the region. Yeltsin has said that the blood shed near the borders of the two countries has troubled Turkey and Russia.

Ertugrul Bulent, from the Turkish Radio and Television team in Moscow, reports the following:

[Begin Bulent recording] Demirel and Yeltsin expressed these views at the dinner they attended at the Kremlin this evening. Addressing the dinner, Demirel praised the struggle waged by Yeltsin for democracy. Noting that the two countries have a 500-year-old history with ups and downs, Demirel added that, however, the periods of peace and cooperation weigh heavier. Pointing out that the friendship and cooperation agreement signed today will consolidate the bilateral relations and create a comprehensive whole, Demirel added that humanity has left behind the Cold War era. Noting that the strength of democracy is being felt throughout the world, Demirel said that extreme national movements and ethnic disputes, however, are now emerging as significant [word indistinct] focal points. He added that Turkey is in favor of making every possible contribution to regional stability and world peace.

Noting that the region in which Turkey is situated is the scene of important disputes that threaten stability and peace, Demirel said: In a bid to prevent situations that will be difficult to rectify in the future, I call on the international community to act in accordance with their responsibilities and on the civilized world to take the necessary measures to prevent—at this construction phase in the new world order—the further corrosion of the fundamental concepts and goals that we jointly defend such as pluralistic democracy, the supremacy of the laws, respect for human rights, and the avoidance of recourse to threats and force.

Yeltsin said that the blood being shed close to the borders of the two countries is disturbing both Turkey and Russia. Stressing that the [word indistinct] of blood and hatred can, at times, easily spread beyond state border, Yeltsin added: It is our joint goal, however, to put an end as soon as possible to armed struggle and to find political solutions to tension spots. He noted that the interests of all sides should be defended while trying to achieve these goals. He said that Russia is not opposed to Turkey developing its historic and cultural ties with the Central Asian republics and establishing new economic relations.

Demirel later held a meeting with Turkish reporters at the residence of Volkan Vural, the Turkish ambassador to Moscow, and briefed them on his contacts at the Russian Federation. Demirel said: We will advance our bilateral relations in all fields. We talked at dinner as well. We have decided to work more closely. Upon Yeltsin's proposal we decided to establish a red telephone line. We will have the opportunity to talk directly on issues concerning both countries as well as on international issues.

Demirel later replied to reporters' questions. In reply to a question, Demirel said that the world, which is aware of the significance of the instability to be created in the region, is interested in the developments in the region. He added that everyone should contribute to the stability of the republics that have been created after the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

A reporter asked Demirel whether other Russian officials share the view expressed by Shaposhnikov to the effect that a Turkish intervention in the region might bring the world to the brink of another world war. Demirel replied: The official view is that the use of force cannot solve problems. The official view is that all disputes should be solved through peaceful means and that territorial gains through the use of force will not be permitted. Demirel added that Turkey wants the 15 republics to continue on their path of independence. Noting that the world wants the bloodshed to stop, Demirel said that the Russian Federation shares the same views.

In reply to a question on what can be done to stop the Armenian aggression, Demirel said: This issue does not concern us and Russia alone. This is an issue that concerns the entire world. We have made it a world issue and the world will, probably, deal with its shortcoming. In reply to another question by the same reporter "can peace be ultimately achieved through the use of arms?" Demirel said: If that is what is necessary then yes.

Noting that the political goals aimed at were achieved at the end of the contacts held in the first day of his visit, Demirel added that the various difficulties encountered in bilateral economic relations will be discussed at the meetings to be held tomorrow.

Demirel described the bridge between Nakhichevan and Turkey as the bridge of hope and added that he will be attending the inauguration ceremony to be held on 28 May.

Joint Statement Released

TA2605154492 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1525 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 26 (A.A)—Turkey and Russia said on 26 May that forceful gains of land were unacceptable. A joint statement released at the end of Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's official visit to Moscow came in the wake of Armenian attacks on the Azeri enclaves of Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan.

"In line with the principles of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, gains of land by using force are unacceptable," the statement said.

Demirel told a news conference in Moscow before leaving for home that his two-day visit to Russia would lead to important developments for the region, Europe, and the world.

"We have decided in our talks that Turkey and Russia should be in solidarity to contribute to the protection of peace and stability in the region and the world at a time when a new Europe is being formed and the world is being restructured," Demirel said.

The two countries on 25 May signed a friendship and cooperation agreement covering framework accords to regulate trade and economic ties.

Demirel met Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar during the Moscow visit.

The two countries also decided to boost bilateral trade volume which was $1.7 billion last year.

Demirel Addresses Businessmen

TA2605170392 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 26 May 92

[Bulent Gullapoglu report from Moscow]

[Excerpts] The Turkish-Russian joint communique stresses that borders cannot be changed through the use of force and that a joint struggle will be waged against such attempts. Furthermore, starting in 1995, Turkey will purchase an additional 2 billion cubic meters of natural gas annually from the Soviet Union. Turkey will also repair the Russian ports on the Black Sea in exchange for oil. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel this afternoon visited the Moscow Municipality and met with various officials. He also addressed Moscow industrialists and businessmen there. Demirel explained Turkey's transition from a state-oriented economy to a market economy through private enterprise. Noting that Turkey, after the establishment of the republic, began its industrialization process with Russian cooperation, Demirel cited the Nazilli Cotton Factory, the Seydisehir Aluminum Installations, the Iskenderun Iron and Steel Installations, and the Aliaga Refinery as examples of this cooperation. Noting that since then, Turkey has adjusted to the free market economy, Demirel said that the state is an inferior manager and that it continuously spends resources because it is not anxious about losses and profits. Noting that the whole world is in favor of privatization, Denktas praised the Russian Federation's choice of this path and its efforts to make a transition to a free market economy. Demirel said: Reforms cannot be implemented through paperwork, books, and speeches. Private enterprise should be supported. You are on the right path. Do not give up. Your success will be the success of humanity. The world is obliged to sympathize with you and support you. You will overcome the obstacles. The world will overcome along with you.

After Demirel's speech the mayor of Moscow gave Demirel a handmade gift.

Prime Minister Sums Up Visit

LD2705135592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0612 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Azer Dzhanrirov and Aleksey Yerovchenkov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 May—"The history of relations between Turkey and Russia spans nearly 500 years. Today, as 1992 draws to an end, we stand as the two major states of the region. I hope the peoples and governments of both our countries recognize and take advantage of the new opportunities now being opened up to mankind," Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said in an exclusive interview for ITAR-TASS correspondents.

Summarizing the results of his official two-day visit to Moscow, which ended on 26 May, Demirel said that the goals which had been expressed could be reached in an atmosphere of peace and stability, given the condition of democratic development, respect for human rights, and the development of a market-based economy. "If dialogue and cooperation based on these principles continues between our two countries, this will be in the interests of both our peoples and of the whole world," the prime minister noted.

Demirel said Turkey attaches great significance to furthering Turkish-Russian cooperation, as demonstrated in the treaty on the foundation of relations between Russia and Turkey, signed in Moscow. As never before, he stressed, favorable opportunities have opened up before our states for developing bilateral contacts for the sake of the peace and prosperity of our peoples.

Demirel noted that no one should be afraid, that the Turkish people and the Turkic peoples of Central Asia and Azerbaijan feel a mutual affection for one another. Should anyone think that Turkey will take them all under its tutelage or will unite them under the banner of a united Turkic state, this is nothing more than fiction or fantasy. Demirel said we are not to blame for the collapse of the Soviet Union, or for the independence of the newly formed states. At the same time, we are pleased with the emergence of a kind of Turkic community. The establishment of relations with this community is quite natural for secular, and at the same time, Muslim Turkey. No one should be annoyed that Turkey is building civilized relations with these states. Turkey's position is clear enough. We want these states to be able to protect their independence, to stand on their own feet as soon as they can, and be transformed into strong states. Stability in these republics is also in the interests of Russia, which recognizes that a considerable proportion of the Russian population lives there. No one can accuse us of expansionist tendencies, especially if you take into account the fact that Turkey has traditionally been drawn toward the West, toward Europe.

Demirel emphasized the importance of a speedy resolution of the Karabakh problem. Turkey, he said, has taken steps to ensure that the conflict does not escalate into a Christian-Muslim confrontation. Unfortunately, it has not yet been able to stop the bloodshed. Demirel believes that Armenia is conducting an expansionist policy. "We consider the forcible seizure of territory to be a profound mistake. This is a veritable drama. Although the world as a whole has denounced the bloodshed, at the same time no one has been able to prevent the tragedy in Karabakh or Bosnia-Hercegovina. This suggests there are gaps in the effectiveness of the decisions of international organizations. Mr. Boris Yeltsin and I agreed that the appropriate international sanctions should be applied toward states which oppose peaceful methods of resolving such problems," Demirel noted. The head of the Turkish cabinet announced that in accordance with an agreement reached in Moscow, without waiting for the Minsk international conference, there should be a meeting in the next few days to discuss the situation in this critical region and seek a solution.

The Turkish prime minister concluded with statements of gratitude to the Russian leaders and people for their cordial hospitality.

Ministry Reports on Visit

LD2905103192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0818 GMT 29 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS corrérspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 29 May (ITAR-TASS)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel paid an official visit to Russia on 25-26 May. Its results have been summed up in a joint Russo-Turkish report for the press, a representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry has stated. Both sides believe that the visit was a success, not just because of diplomatic politeness. Many issues relating to bilateral cooperation and interaction in international affairs were considered in a spirit of mutual understanding and constructiveness during the talks.

Special attention was paid to the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and around Nakhichevan. This is quite natural if one takes into account the serious anxiety caused by this problem in both countries.

Russia and Turkey are persistently calling the conflicting sides to a dialogue, to a display of good will, and to an understanding of the closely connected interests of all the peoples in this region.

Regarding the status of Nakhichevan, in particular, defined by the Moscow and Kars treaties of 1921 as "an autonomous territory under the patronage of Azerbaijan", Russia and Turkey are proceeding from the fact that it cannot be changed without the agreement of all parties which signed these documents.

There are no differences either regarding the illegality of attempts to read the above mentioned treaties as if granting any party to it "the right of guarantor" and, even more so, implying implementation of these rights through use of force.

Backed up by such understanding, Russia and Turkey plan to help to resolve the conflict by peaceful means, including the use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations and the CSCE, the statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry representative says.

Foreign Ministry Leaders Hold Briefing 28 May

OW2905155692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 29 May 92

[By diplomatic correspondent I. Porshnev; from the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [28 May] at the press center of Russia's Foreign Ministry the ministry's leaders met with MPs [members of parliament] and with spokesmen for the country's parties and public organizations. DP [Diplomatic Panorama] presents some of the relevant materials.

RUSSIA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS

Russia's national interests lie in ensuring supremacy for the law in international relations, said First Deputy Foreign Minister Feodor Shelov-Kovedyayev. According to him, Russia is interested in the assertion of stability and predictability in the neighbor countries and in the world at large.

NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Describing the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, Russia's Foreign Minister said that in his view the conflicting sides still haven't abandoned the attempts to resolve their conflict by military means. According to him, this is the main reason why solution to the conflict in Karabakh got procrastinated.

SITUATION IN THE NORTH CAUCASUS

With reference to North Ossetia's decision to impose a blockade on Georgia because of their conflict over Tskhinvali, F. Shelov-Kovedyayev spoke against the endeavours to "internationalize" the problem. "Since the blockade is imposed in Russia's territory, we must use every opportunity to resolve the crisis by means available within the Federation", he pointed out.

THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENT'S UPCOMING VISIT TO THE USA

According to A. Kozyrev, preparations for President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the USA are "in full swing". During the visit the two sides will discuss issues connected with "the new political relationship" between Russia and the USA, which "will evidently be reflected in an important political document". Besides, they'll review problems relating nuclear disarmament. Some 20 agreements "concerning primarily economic cooperation" between Russia and the USA are expected to be signed in Washington.

AMERICAN SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA'S SPACE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

According to A. Kozyrev, in Lisbon he discussed with the U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker American sanctions against Russia's Space Research Committee (they were imposed in connection with an agreement on supplying

India with boosters which allegedly conflicts with the Missile Technology Control Regime: DP).

The U.S. Administration, as James Baker assured A. Kozyrev, views the sanctions as a particular case concerning solely the Space Research Committee, and stands against accentuating this issue.

Besides, the U.S. Administration confirmed that it has no intention of hindering free competition on world markets in the area of space technologies for peaceful needs. Positive discussions on this issue might be continued at the upcoming Russian-American summit, A. Kozyrev said.

"MACEDONIAN ISSUE" AND POSSIBLE SANCTIONS AGAINST BELGRADE

According to the Foreign Minister, the main goal of his recent trip to the former Yugoslav republics was to establish relations with each of them.

With reference to the possibility of recognizing Macedonia A. Kozyrev qualified as "absurd" the situation when in the center of Europe there emerged an independent state with democratically elected government bodies which "no one recognizes". A major sticking point is the name of the state. (Greece has blocked the recognition of Macedonia, insisting that the name of Macedonia can belong only to one of its own historic areas: DP).

According to A. Kozyrev, the people of Macedonia have the right to "choose any name for their state". Solution to this problem must not be detrimental to relations between Macedonia and neighboring Greece, since the spelling and pronunciation of the word "Macedonia" in Greece and in Macedonia itself differ substantially.

"If this issue fails to be resolved amicably in the next few days, the world community will have no alternative but to recognize Macedonia's choice", A. Kozyrev pointed out.

Russia firmly believes that the world community should aim to use the various political means to settle the conflict between the former Yugoslav republics, not bring Serbia and Montenegro "to their knees" (neither Hitler nor Stalin succeeded in this), said Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov.

According to him, we'll be able to accomplish much more by maintaining ties with the United Republic of Yugoslavia [URY] (it includes Serbia and Montenegro: DP), than by resorting to pressure. Nevertheless in principle B. Kolokolov did not rule out this possibility "if it becomes clear that the URY refuses to heed the voice of the world community and violates the agreements reached".

As for the stand Russia might take at the U.N. on the issue of sanctions against the URY, B. Kolokolov said that "much will depend on the development of events in the next few days". According to him, all sides involved in the conflict have come close to the limit beyond which "forced measures" might have to be taken.

According to Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, "it's necessary to confront all the warring sides in Yugoslavia with concrete demands, fix a deadline for meeting them, and warn that after it sanctions will go into effect. "The latest developments require exactly this kind of approach", he pointed out.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN AND TERRITORIAL DISPUTE

The visit to Japan by Russia's President B. Yeltsin scheduled for September will be an "extraordinary event", said Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze. According to him, the recent visit to Tokyo by the ex-President M. Gorbachev "proved to be not as successful as one could expect".

G. Kunadze said he hopes that this time in Tokyo it will be possible to "lay foundations for adding to the relationship between Russia and Japan a new quality" that will characterize them in the 21st century.

"Talks in Tokyo should be conducive to launching a process that will bring us to signing a peace treaty which also presupposes solution to the territorial dispute", said G. Kunadze.

According to him the Russian President's visit to Japan "will make it possible to considerably relieve the sometimes artificially kindled tensions existing in the country in connection with relations with Japan".

With reference to the territorial dispute with Japan Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze said that "this problem does exist, and it has historic and legal aspects". "Some people forget that international laws prevail over internal legislation", he said. Meanwhile, "territorial disputes can be settled only in legal framework which outlines the necessary procedures".

There is a 5-stage plan for settling this dispute. It was advanced by President B. Yeltsin, and "we'll adhere to it", said G. Kunadze. "We must find a solution that would satisfy not only us, the citizens of Russia, but also our partner, Japan", he pointed out.

When asked whether the 5th stage of the plan provides for "surrendering" four South Kuril islands to Japan, G. Kunadze said that it provides for "signing a peace treaty between Russia and Japan and for defining a boundary between them". "At present a boundary between Russia and Japan is not defined in legal terms", Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister stressed. Therefore it's legally untenable to say whether Russia will surrender the disputed islands to Japan or not, said G. Kunadze. "A boundary between two states can be defined solely by a peace treaty signed between them. In the meantime there is no peace treaty signed between Russia and Japan", G. Kunadze stressed.

RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

Deputy Foreign Minister B. Kolokolov has dismissed the allegations that relations between Russia and Germany have become less dynamic of late. "There is no decline in the relationship between Russia and Germany, even though there are problems in it", he pointed out.

PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT

With reference to problems connected with a settlement in the Middle East B. Kolokolov said that the attitude of the former USSR was exclusively pro-Arab for many years, and Moscow maintained no diplomatic relations with Israel. Not long ago Russia restored diplomatic ties with Israel "in the interests of untying that knot". However the ties with Israel "neither replace our relations with the Arab states nor infringe upon them", B. Kolokolov stressed.

He pointed to "certain progress" on the road to a settlement made of late primarily thanks to the joint efforts of Russia and the USA, "cosponsors" of the peace process in the region.

FINANCIAL CRISIS IN RUSSIA'S FOREIGN MINISTRY

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov described the financial situation of Russia's Foreign Ministry as "extremely complicated". According to him, in the first 5 months of this year the Foreign Ministry whose staff at home and abroad comprises some 10,000 people received only 30% of the funds it requires. As a results there are delays in the opening of Russia's embassies in "adjoining states". In some countries Russian diplomatic missions cannot pay for municipal services. Those who work in Russian embassies have been paid only part of their salaries for months.

According to B. Pastukhov, there is a link between financial problems and important political issues, and they should be discussed by the Russian parliament.

Kozyrev Discusses Bush-Yeltsin Talks

LD2905035992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0240 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] In the Russian Foreign Ministry's press center, a briefing was held in which Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev took part. Among the questions he was asked were the following: What is planned for discussion during the forthcoming United States visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin? How does he view the American sanctions against Russia's space industry? In his answers, Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Preparations for the meeting are going ahead at full speed. My conversation with Secretary of State Baker in Lisbon was devoted to this topic. Issues of the new political relations between Russia and the United States, which will find expression in a major political document, will be at center of the talks.

Second, of course, there is the problem connected with nuclear disarmament. After the achievement of the formula on strategic offensive weapons, which allows the four republics of the former Soviet Union to participate in the mechanisms for implementing this agreement while at the same time envisaging the strengthening of the non-nuclear status of three of these republics—that is, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Byelarus—there is the possibility for a rapprochment of the positions of Russia and the United States on the basis of the proposals put forward by Presidents Yeltsin and Bush regarding further deep cuts in strategic offensive weapons in the interests of the parity and security of both sides.

Finally, there will be extensive—more than 10, maybe more than 20—agreements on a wide range of other issues: in the first place, economic cooperation—I stress cooperation—and cultural links, etc. To clarify, this is not a matter of sanctions against industry, but of a law which exists in the United States; it works unilaterally, automatically as a law, on the introduction of sanctions. In the given instance, this is a matter of sanctions against Glavkosmos. The secretary and I discussed this issue once again in, as they say in these instances, an open way, and it is my understanding that it will be viewed as an individual case regarding only Glavkosmos and in this specific case, not against the entire space industry. Second, the American Administration opposes this issue being given a broader nature, forcing any actions now. I stress the administration, because in Congress, just like our Supreme Soviet, various ideas and opinions of various parliamentarians may be expressed. Finally, the administration confirmed that it has no intention of interfering in free competition in the space industry on international markets. On the contrary, it is possible that by the time of the summit, this issue will be further developed. [end recording]

Preparations Begin for Yeltsin's U.S. Visit

LD2905130992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 29 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Vanichkin]

[Text] Washington May 29 TASS—"Russian-American relations are on the upgrade and are marked by great reciprocal trust," Yuriy Petrov, head of the Russian president's office of administration, who is currently paying a working visit to the United States, told ITAR-TASS. Petrov's agenda includes meetings with many officials of the U.S. Administration, including Vice-President Dan Quayle, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Brent Scowcroft, head of the White House employees office Samuel Skinner, Under Deputy Secretaries of State Reginald Bartholomew and Arnold Canter, and Congress Republican Minority Leader Robert Dole.

"The main purpose of the trip is to prepare the ground for President Yeltsin's official visit to the United States in mid-June," Petrov said. "During my meetings with leaders of the U.S. Administration, which were marked by great frankness and interest, we were able to reach agreement on all problems linked with the visit. It only remains to finalise the agreements that are to be signed during the it. We have reached agreement at political level on the format, content and, so to speak, 'weight' of the documents," Petrov said. "Now everything is up to experts and jurists. There are no fundamental differences, but some questions have to be detailed, finalised and thought over. There is enough time for that, and I am absolutely sure everything will be thrashed out by the time of the visit."

"The second problem was to study the experience of the U.S. presidency," Petrov continued. "Since the Russian presidency was formed a very short while ago, Moscow is short of such experience, particularly as regards the organisation of a highly efficient system for supplying the president with the necessary information. There is no shortage of information for the president, but it is sometimes rather excessive," he said. "The president is, of course, very overburdened, and he must relieve him by competently organising the work of his office. This is necessary to save his time".

Petrov spoke highly about the work of the U.S. National Security Council. "I think we can borrow much from it," he said. "For instance, we have discussed with Scowcroft the work of this council. We focused, specifically, on the effectiveness of systematising and analysing information, its proper channelling to the people needing it."

Petrov said people responsible for analysing the information, which is then furnished to the state leadership, bear great responsibility for their work. "When one selects information, he willingly or unwillingly influences the form in which it is presented to the president," he noted. "Proper competence, honesty and loyalty are most important in this case. These are the principles by which such people should be guided."

After his meetings in Washington, Petrov intends to visit Baltimore and New York. "The third important purpose of my trip is linked with these cities," he said. "Our study of the experience of the U.S. Administration is not limited to the White House. We want to study the work of administrative bodies at the level of cities and states, too. In other words, we want to know how the 'presidential vertical' works in the United States, to study the relationships between local bodies and central structures."

Yeltsin Sends Message to Joint Trade Council

LD2605170492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1506 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—"The Russian leadership will continue to do everything depending on it to create the most favourable conditions for Russian-American business cooperation," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in a message sent today to the participants in the 15th annual meeting of the Russian-US Trade and Economic Council in Moscow.

"Now that our relations are relieved of the fetters of ideological enmity and military-political rivalry, cooperation between our countries' business communities has prospects full of mutual hopes," the message says. "Their fulfillment will be defined by progress in sweeping economic reforms in Russia as well as the mutual readiness of the Russian and U.S. Governments and the two countries' business people to lend support to this cooperation.

"Russia does not see itself outside the world economy," Yeltsin points out. "Moreover, we intend to play in it the role that befits a great power. I am sure that peaceful and prospering Russia, which is free of the vestiges of the totalitarian system, can give a powerful impetus to the world's political and economic development."

According to Yeltsin, "business communities in Russia and the United States are called upon to make a decisive contribution to achieving the goal which was proclaimed in the Camp David declaration. This goal is to make relations between our powers as relations between genuine partners and allies in future."

Nechayev Attends U.S.-Soviet Council Meeting

OW2705004992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2122 GMT 26 May 92

[From the 27 May "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The hard currency accounts of Russian clients which the USSR's Vneshekonombank (VEB) had frozen will be converted into government bonds payable over a 3-5-year period at an annual interest rate of 2-3%, announced Russian Economic Minister Andrey Nechayev.

Speaking at the annual gathering of the American-Soviet Trade and Economic Council in Moscow, Mr. Nechayev said, "It is possible that we may even unfreeze the accounts of some VEB clients against current export earnings." Mr. Nechayev pointed out that Russia's monthly export earnings in 1992 are averaging some $5 bn [billion].

When Vneshekonombank froze the hard currency accounts of its Russian clients in December 1991, this was thought to be a sign of the bank's bankruptcy. According to Mr. Nechayev, VEB's domestic debt is around $5.2 bn, but Central Bank experts believe that the bank's debt is at least twice as large.

Mr. Nechayev said that Russia, which assumed responsibility for VEB's domestic debt in January 1991, hopes to pay roughly $1 bn of this debt in 1992, but that the actual amount will depend on the extent to which foreign creditors permit Russia to reschedule payments on the USSR's foreign debt.

Parliament 'Restrains' U.S.-Russian Trade Ties

LD2705082892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1938 GMT 26 May 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] Yekaterinburg—In the opinion of Robert Ruzanov, Russian foreign economic relations ministry's trade mission in the U.S., Russian Supreme Soviet restrains trade relations between the U.S. and Russia.

Speaking on May 26 at a meeting with representatives of the authorities, state enterprises and businessmen circles of Sverdlovsk region, Robert Ruzanov stressed that Russian Supreme Soviet did not ratify the trade agreement which should regulate the state duties for goods' exports and imports. In Ruzanov's words, after the IMF has adopted a decision on granting credits to Russia, the U.S. has shown an interest to cooperation with Russian businessmen. The greatest interest of the Americans is shown to the private companies and the Urals area.

During the meeting representatives of the authorities, state enterprises and businessmen circles, Ruzanov has received a package of proposals for American businessmen. Proposals deal with setting up of joint ventures in metallurgy, wood processing and machine-building industries of Sverdlovsk region.

On May 26 Ruzanov also handed over to the Industrial Association Uralmash from an American company. The proposal deals with joint production of gas tanks to be further sold abroad.

Bush's U.S. Naval Academy Speech Considered

LD2905101892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 28 May 92

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] In a Wednesday [27 May] speech to graduates of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, President Bush tackled U.S. military strategy and his bill in support of freedom in Russia. Commentary is by Vladislav Kozyakov:

Such are the realities today—U.S. defense issues are being linked with the success of Russian reforms. It is change in Eastern Europe that has helped towards U.S. policy review and what seemed to be unacceptable until recently now becomes necessary. In March the Pentagon produced a blueprint of short-range strategic priorities based on some of the legacy left over from the confrontational period of the past, however its new draft approved two months later focuses on less military spending, collective security arrangements, and cooperation with Russia and other former Soviet republics in the military area.

There are reasons to explain why Mr. Bush's speech was dedicated to national security and aid to Russia's democratic reform. The President indicated that tremendous change in Eastern Europe was ruling out the possibility of a major East/West confrontation and the threat of nuclear war had never been so far removed as it was now. He believed no other single factor could affect international peace as the movement to democracy by Russia and other former Soviet republics. Mr. Bush argued that although the sum that the White House wants to be approved by Congress is significant it makes up a tiny fraction of the four trillion dollars that the U.S. spent to wage the Cold War.

Significantly the President's speech coincided with news about progress in the formation of new patterns of international security. NATO's defense ministers meeting in Brussels called for a NATO contingent to be used as part of a CSCE peace-keeping force and without the alliance theater of operations [as heard]. This will lead to the emergence of a new system of collective effort by states on ending conflict with the help of UN and CSCE mechanisms. It is now known that the U.S. Administration is proposing to friendly nations the creation of a global defense group to protect against any nuclear ballistic missile attacks.

The proposal appears to be in unison with President Yeltsin's initiative he put forward in January which provides for the reorienting of the SDI program using Russia's scientific breakthroughs and to create together with other countries a global anti-missile system. The Pentagon had then described Russia's move as a great breakthrough. It looks that bilateral cooperation could now be taken onto a practical plane.

All told international security and Russia's democratic reforms have, as it were, turned into the two sides of the same metal [as heard].

Pentagon's 'Defense Planning Guidance' Examined

PM2805131592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 92 p 1

[Vladislav Drobkov report: "U.S. Missiles Will Still Be Targeted On Russia"]

[Text] Washington, 25 May—We have learned that Pentagon chief Richard Cheney has signed a long document entitled "Defense Planning Guidance."

The first edition of this "guidance"—published in March—envisaged that Washington would openly follow a strictly hegemonic policy aimed at opposing any attempts, even by the United States' closest allies and partners, to acquire decisive weight in any part of the world. It is no accident that the document has come in for fierce criticism in many countries. An enormous scandal blew up, and the Pentagon chief and White House spokesmen essentially disowned their own project in an attempt to defuse it.

Now here we have a new official document approved at the "very top." It would seem that today the task of ensuring the dominant U.S. position in the world by preventing any competition from current partners or opponents is no longer being put forward. At the same time, the Pentagon intends to strive to preserve its leading role in any possible military-political alliances.

U.S. strategists continue to adhere to seven possible scenarios for the development of military confrontation in the years to come. According to the draft adopted back in March, one of these scenarios envisages the invasion of.... Latvia by Russia, and this invasion being rebuffed by NATO forces and U.S. carrier groups.

Clearly, the statements by the Russian president and other Moscow leaders about their readiness to develop the friendliest of relations with the United States still fail to charm the Pentagon. Nor has there been any reciprocity to Boris Yeltsin's much publicized statement that Russian strategic nuclear missiles are no longer targeted on the United States. When you read the "guidance" you conclude that Russian strategic nuclear installations will remain prime targets.

In short, despite the considerably softer and diplomatically restrained language of the new Pentagon document, there is hardly any change in impact from the initial version. I do not think that the Pentagon should be blamed for this. It is just performing its duty of safeguarding U.S. national security interests as perceived by the present U.S. Administration. The Russian leadership should think this over, shouldn't it?

Minister Comments on Foreign Arms Sales

LD2105231292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1540 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kopnov]

[Text] Tokyo May 21 TASS—Russia will vigorously engage in arms sales abroad as long as its defence industry is being converted to civilian production, Russian Minister of the Economy Andrey Nechayev told the KYODO TSUSHIN news agency today. He is visiting Japan at the invitation of the Association of Japanese-Russian Trade.

"Trade in arms is a matter of immense importance for us," Nechayev said. "The shutdown of defence factories generates serious social problems in areas where they are located. At the same time, the number of contracts signed by Russia to supply armaments to other countries has already shrunk by almost 60 percent," Nechayev added.

Concerning the Russian government's stance on international trade in weapons, Nechayev stressed the sale of arms abroad is no longer linked with political considerations and will be carried out exclusively on commercial terms. In addition, Russia intends to honour scrupulously all U.N.-sponsored international treaties on arms trade.

Adviser Urges 'Better-Conceived' Uses of Aid

MK2805123192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 28 May 92 p2

[Eduard Dorozhkin report: "Not Losing Ourselves"]

[Text] Russia's indebtedness to other countries is more than considerable, Sergey Stankevich, the Russian president's adviser, said on 27 May. He called for a move to better-conceived ways of dealing with Western aid. He said that the Russian Government, like the governments of all the former USSR's other 14 republics, has so far failed to develop a mechanism for using Western credit and that is why these large-scale "injections" cannot be said to have had anything but minuscule results.

As for Russia's political dependence, Stankevich noted that the Russian authorities are continuing to abide by the so-called principle of "Atlanticism" whereby the G-7 is still considered the world's main political force. However, by pedantically adhering to classical ideas and thus gaining standing in the eyes of the developed countries, Russia is at the same time running the risk of being left somewhat isolated. Because stability is paramount for Western countries and they will do everything to avert civil war in Crimea, say, or the Dniester region by manipulating Russia, Ukraine, and Moldova.

The adviser assessed Russia's position on the legislative acts on citizenship adopted in the Baltic republics as not being in line with events. In his opinion, a system of apartheid is now developing in the Baltic. Russia must act accordingly—without imperial snarls, but also without losing its own dignity....

EBRD Approves $700 Million in Credits

OW2805222392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is ready to give Russia 700 million dollars in credits this year, Russia's Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin has told IF [INTERFAX]. On Wednesday [27 May] evening he returned to Moscow from London, where he attended a session of the bank's board of governors, which endorsed the bank's strategy in relations with Russia for 1992.

Shokhin said the list of the bank's priorities included agriculture, the processing of farm produce, fuel and power supply complex, the re-tooling of defence industries, privatization of big government-run facilities and measures to ensure the safety of nuclear reactors. The bank's credits will be issued only for projects in the aforesaid spheres.

Polish Premier on 'Unquestionable Achievement'

LD2705113292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0920 GMT 27 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov]

[Text] Warsaw May 27 TASS—Polish Prime Minister Jan Olszewski expressed satisfaction with the talks and agreements signed in Moscow during the Polish president's official visit to Russia.

Olszewski praised the significance of the talks and agreements for Poland's international stand and its domestic situation, especially in view of the final settlement of the issue concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from Poland. Ex-Soviet troops had been deployed on Polish territory for 47 years, the premier recalled in a statement released by the Government Press Bureau here.

The statement said the compromise solution was not easy to reach and stressed that the settlement of bilateral relations with the Russian Federation on the basis of a treaty in combination with the unequivocal pledge to withdraw troops from Polish territory is an unquestionable achievement.

Official on Walesa Visit, Kazakhstan, Kurils

OW2605164092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1547 GMT 26 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Director of the Information and Press Department of Russia's Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembsky has declared that as a result of the Polish President Lech Walesa's visit to Moscow, "there has been a cardinal change in Russo-Polish relations to pave the way for progress on the whole spectrum of bilateral cooperation".

Commenting at 26 May briefing in Moscow on the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance signed on 25 May between Russia and Kazakhstan, the Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman voiced confidence that the document would provide for strengthening the Commonwealth and "would become an important link in a system of bilateral treaties and agreements that would cement the CIS". In his words, the Russo-Kazakh Treaty is also called upon to "demonstrate to all that relations between states could be settled peacefully and amicably by civilized approaches".

In connection with the continuing comments on the Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's remarks about troops on the Kuril islands, Mr. Yastrzhembsky noted that in regard to that problem, it was necessary to take into account the Russian President Boris Yeltsin's statement that Moscow would head for the withdrawal of servicemen from the Kurils with only border guards to stay put.

Progress of Talks With Estonia Detailed

OW2205131292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 22 May 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A major issue at the talks between Russia and Estonia is the problem of removing Russian troops from Estonia and defining conditions for their temporary presence there, said Vasiliy Svirin, head of the Russian delegation for talks with Estonia. The draft agreement on this issue Russia worked out has been presented to Estonia in Parnu where Russia and Estonia held their first round of negotiations on April 14 and 15, he told DP's ["Diplomatic Panorama"] Correspondent.

Participants in the first round of talks defined four main directions: Politico-military, humanitarian, economic and relating to the border, to be negotiated in the framework of working groups.

Before the 2d round of talks held in Moscow on May 12 and 13 Estonia presented to the Russian delegation its own draft agreement on the issue of troop withdrawal. Therefore both drafts were discussed in Moscow.

According to V. Svirin, "there are enough differences in the stands taken by the two sides, in the politico-military direction too". For instance, Russia proceeds from the assumption that the withdrawal of troops can be carried out by the end of 1997. As for Estonia, it insists that it should be concluded by the end of 1992.

"Since at present these stands are incompatible, and neither side has displayed an inclination toward changing its attitude, it was decided to postpone debates on this issue till the near future and start discussing the draft agreement article by article", the diplomat said.

V. Svirin believes that the impending introduction of Estonia's own monetary unit will considerably aggravate problems connected with the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia. The Russian delegation has already handed to its Estonian counterpart a draft agreement on mutual settlements. According to the Russian delegation, the two countries' Central Banks should conduct full-scale negotiations on this issue as soon as possible. "If they fail to do so in time, part of Russian servicemen might be left without the means of subsistence", the diplomat said. According to him, this issue will be a focal point of discussions at the 3d round of talks to be held in Parnu in June.

V. Svirin said he hopes that a compromise on the timing for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia will be reached after all. The Russian delegation, he pointed out, is prepared to continue discussing this problem "with patience and substantiation".

At the talks with Estonia an atmosphere of good will prevails on both sides, the diplomat noted. According to him, both delegations intend to search for mutually acceptable solutions to their problems. With this aim in view an intensive schedule for the negotiating process has been worked out. To make it uninterrupted, it has been agreed that the delegations will meet in their full composition more often than once a month. As for their working groups, they'll be meeting once or twice a month to prepare the necessary materials.

Estonian Diplomat Comments

OW2405163192 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1608 GMT 24 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Foreign ministers of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council will be meeting in Oslo early next month to discuss the withdrawal of army units, now under Russia's jurisdiction, from the Baltic states. This follows last Friday's [22 May] resolution in Brussels by the full meeting of NATO's political committee.

The Estonian ambassador, Mr Clyde Kull, in an interview with BF [BALTFAX] news agency, said that the Russian delegation had tried to block the resolution. He said that public statements by a number of top Russian officials, including the defence minister, Pavel Grachev, seem to indicate Russia's change of heart in the past few months on the issue of troop withdawals from the Baltic republics.

The Estonian diplomat also said that the leader of the Russian delegation in Brussels had reminded his audience of the promise made by the Russian state minister, Mr Gennadiy Burbulis, that both the concept and the schedule of troop withdrawals from the Baltic states would be submitted to NATO this week.

More on Commission Set Up for Estonian Currency

OW2505180392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1518 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Baltfax informs that the RCB [Russian Central Bank] management at its May 22 session set up a Commission for addressing the financial issues associated with the introduction by Estonia of its national monetary unit: kroona. Included in the Commission are Aleksandr Zinchenko, head of the Monetary Circulation Department, and Aleksandr Potemkin, head of the International Financial Operations Department. The functions of the Commission envisage preparation of several draft documents for joint banking accountancy, consideration of issues re reimbursement of the former USSR national debt, mutual accountancy of Russian and Estonian enterprises, pensions, etc.

The Commission foresees two major difficulties arising as a result of the introduction of the Estonian kroona: absence of agreement re quantity of rubles in cash remaining on the territory of Estonia, unspecified date of issuing kroonas into circulation in the Republic.

Azerbaijan Legislature Urges Russian Support

LD2205143992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1410 GMT 22 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Krasulin]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—"The aim of our Moscow visit is to establish normal inter-state relations with Russia. The Azeri democratic forces, which have come to power, count on the support of the Russian democratic leadership," First Deputy Chairman of the Azeri Supreme Soviet Tamerlan Karayev told a news conference today [22 May] at the Azeri permanent representation in Moscow.

He said the new Azeri leadership, mainly represented by heads of the Azeri Popular Front, enjoys the support of the population and the local authorities.

"We count on the soonest consolidation of the Azeri population to counteract the Armenian aggressors," said Karayev.

He also noted the date of presidential elections—June 7—remains unchanged. During the elections 60 U.S. observers headed by ex-U.S. President Jimmy Carter will work in the republic. According to Karayev's information, none of the seven candidates has announced his decision to stop presidential campaign.

While meeting First Deputy Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Sergey Filatov, Karayev had an impression "Russia does not denounce the Armenian aggression." He does not exclude they thus "hope to force Azerbaijan join the Commonwealth of Independent States."

At the same time, Karayev stressed the Popular Front has not changed its stand and continues to advocate a bilateral treaty with Russia. However, the Azeri joining of the CIS will soon be discussed by the nation Majlis to take the final decision.

Speaking on the situation in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, Karayev said Armenian militants faced substantial resistance in the Sadarak region. He stressed the Azeri leadership "approves the Turkish readiness to fulfill its obligations as the guarantor of the Nakhichevan status in accordance with the Kars and protect it from the aggressor."

Foreign Ministry Officials Meet Public

LD2805195592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Passages within quotation marks recorded; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev] "Both sides have not yet made a final decision in favor of a political solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

[Correspondent A. Pishchayev] That was stated by the head of Russia's foreign department at the first ever meeting of the Foreign Ministry's leaders with the public. Furthermore, the meeting became more of a news conference, and one of the questions was about the Dniester region. A meeting of foreign and defense ministers of the sides involved in the confrontation is scheduled to be held on 29 May, Kozyrev emphasized.

The issue of the withdrawal of Russia's 14th Army from Moldova has been decided. It remains only to determine the dates and the conditions for its temporary stay there.

There was also talk of the mechanism for adopting foreign policy decisions, which is in effect, the president's prerogative, and of cooperation between parties and the Foreign Ministry.

In general, the meeting had promised to be amicable and tranquil, if it had not been for Georgiy Gusev from Russia's National Citizens Union [Rossiyskiy obshchegrazhdanskiy soyuz], who declared with Bolshevik bluntness that the Foreign Ministry's policies are:

[Gusev, in progress] ".... opposed to Russia's interests and defeatist."

[Pishchayev] It turns out that he had in mind the alleged planned return to Japan of the Kuril islands.

[Deputy Foreign Minister G. Kunadze] "There is Yeltsin's five-point political plan within the framework of which we shall move toward a solution, but the border between Russia and Japan has not yet been legally defined."

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Sends Greetings to Businessmen

PM2605144592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 May 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "President Boris Yeltsin's Greetings Message"]

[Text] Dear Compatriots!

I am quite justified in using this mode of address in respect of all the participants in the World Meeting of Russian Business People—entrepreneurs from the Russian Federation, businessmen representing Russian emigres from around the world, and all Russians currently living and working on the territory of the independent CIS states. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of the work you are now beginning—the reunification of these three powerful roots of Russian [otechestvennyy] enterprise. These roots should produce a stem which will be crowned with a flourishing domestic economy, without which I cannot envisage Russia in the future.

And it is important for there to be a unification not only of economic capital but of moral and intellectual capital, which is no less valuable. Mixing the experience of fellow citizens who have achieved success under modern market conditions with profound knowledge of the situation in our economy, will help us to integrate the economy more effectively into the world economic organism and to approach what we call the "civilized market" more rapidly.

I have no doubt that your efforts will have a favorable impact not only in Russia, but in the Commonwealth countries, and will reaffirm the well-known openness and responsiveness of the Russian character.

I wish you success, dear countrymen, on this difficult but noble journey.

Cabinet Discusses Transport, Social Protection

LD2805163592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1537 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 29 May—The progress and strategy of further reforms in such important areas as science, the merchant fleet, and social protection measures were examined at a session of the Russian Government today. It was held under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar.

The question of measures for the rebirth of Russia's merchant fleet was raised by the members of the government. Transport Minister Vitaliy Yefimov cited figures that showed that as of 1 January 1992, Russia's merchant fleet amounted to 54 percent of the former Soviet fleet. Russia has been virtually deprived of a tanker, refrigerator, grain, and passenger fleet. At the same time, the remaining vessels, as a rule, are already on the verge of exhausting their usefulness.

In the course of the discussion, Economics Minister Andrey Nechayev did not rule out the possibility of "Russia raising again the issue of the division of the CIS fleet," taking into account the present Baltic fleets. The cabinet approved Boris Yeltsin's draft decree on measures aimed at reviving Russia's commercial fleet. The draft decree envisages the drawing up of an appropriate national plan by the end of this year.

The government's draft decision on immediate measures to provide state support for invalids and to provide social protection during the transition to a market was approved on the whole at the session. This draft envisages the introduction of a number of benefits for this part of the population, including free medical help at state public health facilities, the right to be provided with medicine, and free use of public transportation.

Tax Issues Covered

LD2805173492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 28 May 92

[Excerpts] We have received a report on today's meeting of the Russian Government chaired by Yegor Gaydar. Attention was focused on the course and strategy of further reforms in such important areas as science, the merchant fleet, and measures for social protection. Boris Saltykov, minister of science, higher education, and technical policy, set forth the concept of state policy in this area by stating that the current transition to the market demands that state scientific and technical policy be redirected toward new priorities. The principle of selectivity regarding support for specific scientific programs or scientific organizations should become a basic one. [passage omitted]

At the cabinet session, which lasted five and a half hours, the work of the Tax Inspectorate was examined, and a decision was made to raise the salaries of tax inspectors.

Decree 'Streamlining' State Administration Eyed

PM2805142192 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 22 May 92 p 1

["Decree of the President of the Russian Federation 'On Streamlining the System of State Administration'; dated 12 May 1992 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In connection with the elaboration of the draft Law on the Government of the Russian Federation, and with the aim of streamlining the system of state administration and simplifying the structure and cutting back the apparatus of the organs of the Russian Federation's executive power, I resolve:

1. To establish that the central organs of executive power subordinate to the Russian Federation president and the Russian Federation government include:

ministries;

state committees;

federal services and agencies;

committees (under the president, government, and ministries).

2. That within one month the Russian Federation Government submit proposals on the structure of the federal executive power, having made provision in it for the demarcation of jurisdiction and the elimination of duplication of functions between ministries, departments, and organs under the Russian Federation Government and administrative organs which are under the Russian Federation president's direct authority.

That it elaborate [illegible] general Statute on Russian Federation Ministries and Departments which makes provision for the following administrative structures in them: main administrations, administrations, departments, and other subdivisions.

3. That within one month the Russian Federation Government and the Russian Federation president's Administration submit proposals to streamline the composition of the consultative, collegial, and coordinating organs of administration (commissions, soviets, and other organs) being created under the Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation government, Russian Federation ministries, and other organs of state administration, and to define their organizational and legal status.

President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin
Moscow, the Kremlin, 12 May 1992

Intelligence Service To Work on Joint Efforts

LD2805131792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Skripnikov]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—"The principal directions of Russian intelligence remain the same—political, economic, scientific and technological. They ensure the state's most important interests," First Deputy Director of the Russian External Intelligence Service Vyacheslav Trubnikov told a briefing here today.

He commented on the recent statement by CIA Director Robert Gates, who claimed that the work of Russian special services had changed very insignificantly after August 1991 and doubted whether the Russian leadership was aware about their activities. "We are asked whether the Russian intelligence is changing," Trubnikov said. "But, personally, I am disturbed by the fact that the Russian mass media periodically raise the same questions which, sometimes, it is true, has a somewhat different slant. They claim that intelligence professionals are working behind the back of a non-professional director exactly in the same way they did before August 1991".

"But life and the Russian authorities have set new tasks before the intelligence service," Trubnikov continued. "Accents are being shifted in Russian intelligence towards the investigation of new world processes."

Trubnikov adduced as an example the need to verify the implementation of reached agreements on a wide range of disarmament aspects, non-proliferation of technologies and mass annihilation weapons, to monitor the development of missile and nuclear technologies in "threshold" countries. According to Trubnikov, unbiased and trustworthy information is being supplied to the leaderships of Russia and other CIS countries.

"In light of Russia's developing relations with the outside world, attention is being given to the development of intelligence sections responsible for collecting economic information," Trubnikov said. "They focus on areas, where Russian economy could be impaired. The intelligence service has competent experts, who are able to "promptly distinguish an unworthy foreign partner", to indicate the most profitable areas for Russia. "Even such a problem as proper analysis of Western aid, including the promised 24 billion U.S. dollars, must be soberly analysed and viewed through the prism of our foreign partners and specialists. This can be done by the intelligence service and it is taking part in this job", Trubnikov stated.

The intelligence has renounced confrontational approaches. It is developing contacts with special services in other states, seeking areas of interaction," he continued. "Such contacts now exist on all the continents, except Australia and Antarctica. There are such contacts with the CIA, too," he added. A joint struggle is being waged against drug trafficking and organised crime. Joint efforts with our foreign partners are being made to track down criminal and Mafiosi contacts within the country jointly with foreign partners.

"At the same time, guided by the principle of reasonable sufficiency, we are trying to optimise our intelligence service" Trubnikov said. "We are cutting the number of our personnel in countries and regions, where their work is now unproductive. Dozens of networks have already been liquidated and the process is continuing. "The number of intelligence men abroad is also being reduced. Up to 30 per cent of our external personnel have returned home by now," he added.

Security Minister on Chechen 'Terrorist Acts'

OW2805144992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chief of the Russian Security Ministry's Department for Moscow and Moscow Region Yevgeniy Savostyanov said that politically-motivated terrorist acts were quite possible. He also said that the Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev had his men in Moscow who could organize terrorist acts in Moscow on order from Groznyy. Savostyanov spoke about this on Thursday [28 May] during a meeting of the Moscow government's anti-crisis committee which discussed measures to combat organized crime.

According to his sources, there are 15 major criminal groupings in the city, including the Chechen group with about 400 members, the Azeri group with 300 members, the Solntsevo group (230 members), the Kazan group (100 members), as well as the Ossetian, Dagestan, Armenian and Georgian groups.

There is an acute rivalry between them over the spheres of influence. They are well-armed, given the absence of controlled borders with the southern regions where weapons are sold freely.

Drug business is the most profitable area of criminal activity. Ninety per cent of the Moscow drug market is controlled by representatives of southern regions.

The Moscow government intends to set up a specialized group for eliminating criminal groupings. Financial aid may come from Moscow entrepreneurs who, to quote Yevgeniy Savostyanov, keep grudges against "southerners".

'Just and Wise' Grachev Appointment Viewed

LD2305213892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 23 May 92

[Report by station observer Viktor Levin on international conference dedicated to problems of security, held in Moscow, including recorded remarks by retired General Yuriy Lebedev, head of the center for international military and political research, made at news conference following conference, date not given]

[Excerpts] An international conference dedicated to the problems of security in the conditions of radical global changes has taken place in Moscow. Here is what our observer Viktor Levin told us. He covered the work of the conference.

[Levin] The meeting of specialists and scientists from different countries was organized by the Russian-American University. [passage omitted] The first, shall I say, Russian-American University has gathered mighty forces: eminent military people in retirement, former high-ranking diplomats, and scientists. It is a non-government delegation. It does not get any money from the state, which makes it possible for its members to say what they think.

Using this circumstance, I asked the following question at the news conference: How do you assess the appointment of a military person to the post of Russian defense minister, despite the expectations. The first to answer was Major General in retirement Yuriy Lebedev, head of the center for international military and political research, and a responsible employee of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff for many years.

[Lebedev] Although I served in the armed forces for 45 years, I am a supporter of having a civil defense minister. However, taking into account the difficulties which now exist, during this transitional period I think that it would have been difficult for a civil minister to cope with the formation of the armed forces. That is why I think that the appointment, at this moment, of a military specialist as defense minister is just and wise. [passage omitted]

Admirals Cited on Russian Navy's Future

PM2605141392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 May 92 p 2

[Report by correspondent Senior Lieutenant V. Fatigarov, incorporating interview with Rear Admiral V. Prozorov, department chief in the Main Naval Staff Operations Directorate; place and date not given: "Under the Protection of the Flag of Saint Andrew: Military Experts Talk about the Creation of the Russian Navy"]

[Text] The decree by the president of the Russian Federation creating the Russian Armed Forces presupposes the creation of a Russian Navy. What does the navy of a state washed by the waters of three oceans look like?

Your correspondent met with several admirals of the CIS Navy who have taken part in drafting a number of documents on the instruction of the State Commission for the Creation of the Ministry of Defense, Army, and Navy of the Russian Federation.

Rear Admiral V. Prozorov, department chief in the Main Naval Staff Operations Directorate, said that this primarily involves not so much creating as reshaping the Navy, because the former USSR Navy was essentially Russian—only 10-12 percent of its forces were based outside Russia's territory. Only its structure and strength level will partially change. It is intended that the Russian Navy will preserve the existing component services—surface ships, submarines, naval aviation, shore-based troops, and others. However, the numerical correlation among them will undergo change. This process has essentially already begun. Since 1986, for example, the number of multipurpose submarines has been more than halved (from 340 to 166) by withdrawing those which have reached the end of their fixed service life. Some ship designs which did not meet expectations will recede into history, while promising designs will undergo development. It is planned to maintain and strengthen in the Navy's structure the coastal defense troops, which were created not so long ago and are capable of fully protecting base installations from dry land, a task which was previously tackled by other branches of the Armed Forces in coordination with the Navy. This idea has met with understanding and support from Russian Vice President Rutskoy.

[Fatigarov] But ideas require not just understanding from state officials, they require financial support too....

[Prozorov] As far as I am aware, the theoretical readiness to finance the Russian Navy vis-a-vis all the other branches of the Armed Forces stands at one to six. But around one-third of the personnel of the Armed Forces will serve in the Navy. For the Navy to tackle its tasks normally, it must, we believe, have a strength of at least 350,000-360,000 men.

[Fatigarov] Will the Russian flag be flying in the world's oceans?

[Prozorov] To my knowledge, the supporters of a coastal navy, including the military, are few in number. I consider this a profound error. Russia has its own national interests at sea: Guaranteed access to the resources of the world's oceans, ensuring unhindered transcontinental navigation, protection of fishing zones, and much else. The Americans have extended their naval influence almost throughout the world, and I regard the interests in the world's oceans of Russia—washed, as it is, by the waters of three oceans—to be equally great in extent. We have submitted proposals to the state commission in this regard.

[Fatigarov] Russia's decision to have its own Navy will certainly produce a reaction from the other CIS states—former republics of the Union. And a pretty painful one, perhaps?

[Prozorov] I can only say the following: The Navy is ready to provide assistance in creating navies to all the former republics of the USSR which have access to the sea. But some which wish to do so perceive it simply as a matter of dividing up the Navy. This means that the Navy would be smashed into small pieces, that is, lost as an operational-strategic entity, especially since not a single one of the states claiming part of the Navy has to date drawn up a concept for the creation of its own naval forces.

[Fatigarov] Viktor Sergeyevich, it was planned quite recently to carry out an experiment in manpower acquisition in the Navy based on a contractual system. That will probably be reflected in the Russian Navy too, will it not?

[Prozorov] It certainly will, we will need professionals—both among the ordinary and the junior command personnel. And it is unrealistic in practice to become professional in just two years of compulsory service. But limited resources will not enable us to abandon the draft, and there is no need for this. Petty officers and other ranks in all specialized spheres will serve under contract where a special level of knowledge is required, while the others can be drafted for compulsory service and trained in a training detachment. [Prozorov interview ends]

[Fatigarov] It is clear that the Russian Navy will be manned by Russians. But could young men from the other CIS states serve on the ships?

Vice Admiral V. Lyakin, chief of a Navy directorate, answered this question by saying that such a decision depends on the future of the CIS. If the Commonwealth remains, certain of its states, particularly Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzia, have agreed, as I understand it, to send their draftees into the Russian Navy. And in general, as Lyakin stressed, the creation of the new structures of the Russian Navy can be started only after a final decision has been made, and that has not been done yet.

In response to my question about whether his apparatus was involved in drafting documents for the state commission, Rear Admiral N. Zelenin, assistant commander of the CIS Navy in charge of work with personnel, answered in the negative. Has the educational system in the Navy not yet been defined, then?

"The question is being tackled."—Zelenin said. "But as yet only in broad outlines for the Russian Armed Forces as a whole. It is my opinion, however, that the educational organs should be built up rather than endlessly slashed. Underestimation of educational work as an essential institution in the Army and Navy could have a serious effect upon their quality...".

The restraint shown by my interlocutors and the meager information I gleaned are understandable—many aspects of today's naval building in Russia are still only being delineated. The president's decree is only the start of the enormous work of creating branches of the Armed Forces.

Incidentally

As your correspondent was informed by Captain First Rank V. Slapoguzov, section chief of a Main Naval Staff directorate, a Russian presidential decree renaming a number of ships has been signed. New names will be given notably to the following nuclear-powered heavy missile cruisers—the Kirov becomes the Admiral Ushakov; the Frunze, the Admiral Lazarev; and the Kalinin, the Admiral Nakhimov. The last of the cruisers in this class—the Yuriy Andropov, whose construction is being completed in St. Petersburg, will bear the name of the founder of the Russian Navy—Petr Velikiy [Peter the Great].

Matyukhin Responds to Attacks on Central Bank

MK2805124992 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 22, 27 May-2 Jun 92 p 2

["Letter to the Editorial Office": "A Banker's Confession"]

[Text] A host of rumors has been circulating recently in connection with the Central Bank of Russia and G. Matyukhin, its chairman. Our editorial office has in its possession a document addressed to the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies which was not published at that time.

"To the Sixth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies

"Statement

"I hereby confirm the statement of my deputy, People's Deputy V.P. Rasskazov, sent on my behalf regarding my resignation.

"As is well known, the chairman of the Bank of Russia was not included in the delegation at the 27 April IMF session. This automatically means a lack of confidence in me as leader and discredits me in the eyes of international banking circles.

"In the present situation I do not consider it possible to continue performing my duties. For several months now I have been the target of systematic persecution by certain forces via the mass media. In addition, I cannot accept the assessment of the bank's activity as expressed to me by the esteemed congress any more than I can accept the president's opinion that the bank must be under the government's jurisdiction.

"Criticisms of the Central Bank as being to blame for credit issue and the cash shortage are to say the least unfounded and do not require reasoned discussion. Any expert will agree with that. The social policy pursued by the government and some parliamentary committees aimed at the unrestrained growth of wages, the issue of benefits and subsidies, and the creation of all manner of untaxed funds leads, in my view, to financial disaster and the complete disorganization of the banking system.

"The Bank of Russia is no place for political intrigues and cannot be a source of infinite resources used to plug the gaps in the budget and conceal the true situation in the economy.

"I am deeply convinced that an independent and strong Central Bank can be the basis of economic recovery along with well-considered economic decisions made at governmental and presidential level.

"The Central Bank of Russia believes that the Supreme Soviet should take urgent measures to improve banking legislation and in particular envisage the Central Bank's full protection against high-handed decisions designed to supplant it.

"G.G. Matyukhin, chairman of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation."

Fuel, Oil Price 'Hoist' Threatens Agriculture

LD2805184192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Filatov]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—The Russian agriculture, which lived off an "austerity ration" over the past few years, has landed in a still more difficult predicament after the hoisting of prices for energy-carriers. This may thwart spring sowing in several regions of the country, including Kurgan region, for instance, where sowing machinery is idle for some time now due to lack of petrol. The Orenburg regional agro-industrial complex has tabled the following ultimatum: "Since prices for energy carriers have been substantially raised, we demand that products procured from farms be transported only at the expense of the state."

"The situation in the agro-industrial sphere is extremely difficult," ITAR-TASS was told by specialists of the mechanisation and plant-growing department of the Russian Ministry for Agriculture. They recalled that enterprises of the agro-industrial complex were major consumers of fuel and lubricants—up to 60 per cent of their total amount is being consumed by agriculture. Naturally, the price hoist has above all affected the level of farm mechanisation. Whereas formerly there were practically no difficulties with motor fuel, now it is quite scarce. Many tractors and other motor vehicles and equipment are standing idle due to this, which leads to the violation of agrotechnical requirements, unobservance of deadlines for some field and farm jobs.

All this will result in huge crop losses. Specialists are now trying to forecast their size. But one striking fact is already obvious: the hoist of prices for energy carriers, supplied to the agro-industrial complex on the basis of state limits, will boost the cost of farm produce by about 400 billion roubles. "In this case, the cost of food in shops and on farm markets will be beyond reach to the population," they stressed.

The price hoist, specialists believe, is bound to aggravate the slump in production in agriculture. This had already happened, when the unregulated liberalisation of prices was affected, which also complicated intersectoral exchanges: prices on manufactured goods soared up 20 times over, and in some cases 30 and even 50 times over, while prices for agricultural goods went up only 5-7-fold. Today we are witnessing a paradoxical situation: commodity abundance despite the existing production deficit. Hence, there will be less demand for farm products. They will perish at storehouses due to astronomical prices. The situation will be aggravated by the existing catastrophic shortage of cold storages.

In expert opinion, agriculture needs state backing in present-day conditions. It is necessary because agriculture cannot, most obviously, compete with industry, which is less dependent on natural factors. A sufficiently convincing fact was adduced in light of this: husbandries are compelled to consume much fuel and lubricants today for resowing winter crops, restoring crops and planting vegetables and other cultures, which have perished due to recent spring frosts. This never happens in industry, while in agriculture it occurs practically every year. All this adds up to make its production more expensive.

"If the government fails to back the agro-industrial complex, the country may end up without any harvest at all. There will be nothing to garner it with," specialists from the mechanisation department of the Russian Ministry for Agriculture believe.

'Drastic Measures' Predicted for Oil Industry

OW2805222792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A draft program for the stabilization of the Russian oil industry to be considered at the May 30 government meeting chaired by Boris Yeltsin warns that unless some drastic measures are taken to surmount the present-day crisis in the industry, annual oil production in Russia may by 1995 fall to 228 mln [million] tonnes, an amount which will be too small to even meet the republic's domestic needs.

After 1988 with its record output of 568.3 mln tonnes, oil production in Russia has been dwindling at an annual rate of 20% and this year will not, according to some estimates, exceed 393 mln tonnes (last year's figure was 460 mln).

Even if the proposed measures immediately begin to be introduced, the program states, the industry will not begin to get out of the crisis before 1995, a year by which the annual production of oil and gas condensate will have fallen to 326 mln tonnes. After that it will begin to go up to reach 372 mln tonnes by the year 2000.

The Russian ministries and research centers which have worked out the program believe the crisis was caused by drastic reductions in state subsidies given to oil-mining enterprises, the disruption of economic links on the territory of the former USSR leading to shortages of materials and equipment, and the loss of control of the industry.

The immediate measures proposed include freeing oil prices in July 1992, giving an interest-free credit of 40 bn [billion] rubles to oil-mining associations, and abolishing customs duties on oil exports as early as this year. The measures to be taken subsequently include bringing the overall depth of wells to 34 mln meter from the present 25 mln, putting today's 13,000 idle wells back into operation, and organizing mass production of oil-mining equipment in Russian enterprises within the next 2-3 years.

Program for Deepening Economic Reform Considered

LD2605221392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2213 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 26 TASS—The Russian Government has considered the concept of a programme for deepening economic reforms today. It contains not only the goals, directions and the analysis of the possible scenarios of the development of events but also the description of planned actions.

A spokesman at the Russian Government's Economic Reforms Centre told ITAR-TASS the concept singles out the four key lines of transformations: Liberalisation and stabilisation of the economy, institutional changes, structural logic and the social policy.

The liberalisation of prices, wages and exports, which began in the first months of the year, will be continued by ending price regulation (besides natural monopoly), mandatory shipments and non-tariff restrictions in foreign economic activity. To achieve stabilisation, it is planned to introduce immediately the convertibility of the rouble in current financial operations.

A further financial stabilisation is planned to be ensured by the accelerated growth of the budget revenue over spending and by curbing the expenditures. It is supposed to adopt a single rouble rate to hard currencies. The rouble stabilisation will help narrow the gap between internal and world prices, which will make it possible to come gradually to the mandatory rouble sales of enterprises' currency proceeds at the market rate.

As for institutional transformations, they represent a range of measures to implement the accelerated privatisation of enterprises and transfer them to joint-stock ownership, form the secondary market of capital, land and real estate, raise the private savings norm and create equal economic management conditions for Russian and foreign investors. The same package includes measures to support small entrepreneurship, streamline economic legislation and reorganise the economic management system.

Under the concept, the restructuring of the economy is orientated primarily at increasing the share of consumer goods production, converting the military-industrial complex to civilian production, reducing energy consumption by production and involving non-used resources in the economic turnover.

Conditions will be created for the development of entrepreneurial structures which will replace loss-making or bankrupt enterprises. It is necessary that the innovation potential be preserved and its energetic use in "growth points" which give a rapid and tangible return be envisaged. The concept stipulates setting up funds to provide financial support to enterprises which found themselves in the difficult position.

'Molniya' Plant Now Working on 'Air Taxis'

PM2805114992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 May 92

[Video report by G. Fadeyeva and A. Kornilov, from "Molniya" Science and Production Association; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Fadeyeva over video of "Molniya" Science and Production Association production facilities] Wages are normally paid out on the 9th of each month at the "Molniya" Science and Production Association. Today is the 22nd. But staffers have not yet received their pay for May.

When the "Buran" heavy spacecraft was being designed and built here, this would have been unthinkable. But now we have conversion. Here this word means primarily an end to state funding.

[Fadeyeva turning to plant official] Are you restructuring without blood and tears?

[D. Reshetnikov, deputy general director of "Molniya" Science and Production Association] There is a lot of blood and tears.

[Fadeyeva] All manpower and resources have been channeled into building a small six-seater aircraft. An air taxi, as they are called. People at the plant are convinced that if there were a competition for this type of aircraft, the "Molniya"—the aircraft takes its name from the plant—would win it. Staff here believe that the winning prize of such competitions should be a state order. That would resolve many problems.

[Reshetnikov] As soon as the first flight tests have been held, we will probably obtain funding...

[Fadeyeva] The flight tests are scheduled for June. There is already demand for the machine abroad. However, it would be nice to be able to believe that workers and engineers at the "Molniya" Science and Production Association will be paid before then. [video shows various aspects of aircraft being assembled, production hall, interview]

Makharadze on Property Rights, Land Reform

OW2705095692 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 21 May 92

[Studio interview with V.V. Makharadze, Agricultural Adviser to Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy; by S. Lomakin; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Lomakin] About a year has passed since Yeltsin signed a decree transferring certain powers to the vice president, thus loading onto him a thankless task. Lately, you have often accompanied him on his trips, both in this country and abroad. As far as I know, the last trip was to Israel and Egypt.

[Makharadze] Yes.

[Lomakhin] And I think that you visited the famous Israeli kibbutsim. Is there any resemblance at all between them and our sovkhozes and kolkhozes?

[Makharadze] I would like to correct you and say that Boris Nikolayevich did not load this task onto Aleksandr Vladimirovich. Rather, the vice president took this task upon himself. It is a very difficult one. The president assumed the role of prime minister, and the vice president took it upon himself to be an agricultural reformer. As everyone knows, carrying out of land reform, and agricultural reform in general, is the biggest problem today.

You can see how it is going—there are a lot of problems, and regrettably, what happened, or rather did not happen at the session, the lack of any facts about land, is a very bad thing. We shall have to start from the beginning.

Both the president, the vice president and the government wanted and were ready for land reform, ready to give land to those who were willing to take it. Whoever wants to build plants and factories or cultivate land should get it, following which all that can happen is a constructive process. Today, billions circulate in the country looking for an application, existing things are bought and sold, but nothing new is created, and it is wrong.

[Lomakin] Such a grim future seems to be in store for us. And it is not an accident that we are talking about agriculture. A year ago they scared us with starvation. There is no starvation yet, but of course there are shortages of certain foodstuffs, and the prices are high too. Can we hope for some improvement in the fall or winter of next year, or do you predict a further worsening?

[Makharadze] It is important to note that the financing of agriculture is inadequate, and the credit system is on the verge of collapse. The percentage demanded by the banks is unimaginable, and no one can build anything with it. There are even problems with financing the sowing; it is difficult to say just how expensive it will be, and both the government and the Supreme Soviet must take urgent measures to eliminate this situation.

There are a lot of defense facilities which started conversion several years ago, but regrettably no organization or state organ coordinated their activities, and many splendid developments, which match world standards, have only now started surfacing.

Several days ago there was a meeting in the office of Shcherbakov, the Deputy Minister of General Machine Building. Several factories have made some splendid equipment for meat processing, but only now that we have managed to link them together will such a factory start functioning for the first time on 1 August— and as a turnkey project, too.

[Lomakin] And how are the prices of these products? They are unimaginable.

[Makhradze] All over the world, agriculture and particularly the manufacture of special equipment, has usually been subsidized, and enterprises have been given assistance. You remember the small dairy factory that we launched last year. Its price was 800,000 rubles. This year, its price increased to six million. What kind of farmer or kolkhoz could handle this? This is a very serious problem, and the government must attach special meaning to it as soon as possible.

[Lomakin] What does special meaning mean? There must be some specific subsidy. We are used to the agriculture in our country living off its subsidy. Always.

[Makharadze] There must not be such a thing as subsidy. What we need are favorable credits. For example, when there is an economic depression in the U.S. such as last year, the President issued a special decree, confirmed by Congress, and bank credit rates were lowered. This was done especially to give the economy a push. The reverse happened here—the percentage rose to such a degree that the only thing that one could do was buy several thousand beer cans and resell them the same day, thus making some kind of profit. There was no profit in selling them the next day. This is wrong, of course.

There probably is some kind of financial policy we are not told about; I do not think that it all just goes along without any thought or meaning. But this must be clarified for those who really create something, who want to do things.

[Lomakin] I have a question about our top leaders. I have followed the development of your own enterprise, the Interferma, for two years, and I know that it is developing. You have taken the right road, the one of processing a raw agricultural product into a finished product. Conversion factories have helped to a large extent, including the one you talked about. Both the vice president and the president visited the Interferma and rated it a model farm.

How do the leaders appraise the appearance of the few farms such as yours? There are so few of them in our country, and there probably will need to be scores of thousands of them to somehow change the situation.

[Makhradze] I agree with you that there are not a lot of such enterprises around. But there is nothing extraordinary about it, this is how it should be. The question is why it happened, why I decided to do it.

One of the reasons was that I have taken deserted land, a dump that no one needed. I have rented these 68 hectares for 60-year terms, and all I think about, day and night, is what I am going to do there to benefit myself, the people around me and my co-workers.

Let me stress again that the most important thing is the right to own land, because no one will invest anything or build anything if they do not know that it belongs to them. This is an important principle, this is how it works all over the world, and the faster we adopt this principle, the faster the creative process will gather pace.

[Lomakin] Does the vice president share your views?

[Makharadze] I would say that this is the view of both the president and the vice president. Naturally, their visit to my agricultural complex was very rewarding for me, and it was not as though I had to solicit them to come. It was just the result of four years of labor, it was what I hoped for. It was my reward. I asked for nothing—on the contrary, I told them that I wished to help reform and progress. The only problem is how to make this kind of thing available to others. And today, the situation is even worse than before.

[Lomakin] We somehow try to make Russia into an agricultural state by dropping the kolkhozes and the sovkhozes. But a kolkhoz or a sovkhoz is not only a team of people, but also an accumulation of funds. You mentioned the increase in prices of agricultural equipment which prevents individuals from buying it. What do you see as the way to solve this problem: banding into cooperatives, into kinds of groups, or something else? I would like to clarify this to myself: what road are we going to embark upon—private farming or cooperatives?

[Makharadze] The principle inherent in the kolkhoz or the sovkhoz is something that exists in many countries—associations of farmers and cooperatives. As a rule, no farmer in the West builds his own dairy processing factory, for example. There is simply no need for it. They create a cooperative and build a dairy processing factory, such as the factory in the state of Vermont where students from my enterprise have studied.

They know that the sale of their milk is guaranteed, and they know that their profits will be maximal, because their profit comes from the end product, such as cheese or sour cream. What would I do? I would help the more successful kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the ones that have not collapsed yet, to create processing facilities in their specialist field, such as vegetables, fruit, or milk processing.

When you examine the situation in the autumn, the harvest seems good, but usually they fail to gather, preserve and process it. As a result, we have huge losses. This is wrong. We will not be able to do anything without processing, and the faster the government pays attention to this and creates favorable conditions for development, the faster our stalls will become full. No one will help us if we do not help ourselves.

[Lomakin] Last question, and briefly, if possible, could you give an estimate for the coming summer—the sowing, the harvesting, and the conserving? Both as a private person and as an adviser to the vice president?

[Makharadze] I would not take the responsibility of naming figures and dates; I think that we should have a good harvest this year. After all, people are motivated by the instinct of self-preservation, it must happen regardless of whether it is a sovkhoz, a kolkhoz or just a private lot that someone dug up.

I take the Riga highway every day as I drive to work, and I see that virtually everything is being cultivated, and this is the right thing to do. Some have allocated land, some just take it, but in any case something is being done with this land, and more than just grass grows on it.

I think that there will be no food crisis and that the situation will improve. The most important thing for the government to do is to avoid destroying what still remains. Both the financing and the support of farmers, of kolkhozes and sovkhozes must not be meddled with now, since there are no new structures yet. It will only hurt and harm what has already been created.

This summer should be a good one; with God's help everything will be all right.

[Lomakin] Thank you.

Cosmos 2186 Launched From Plesetsk

LD2905065192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0635 GMT 29 May 92

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent from the Flight Control Center]

[Text] Moscow, 29 May—Another artificial Earth satellite, Cosmos 2186, was launched by the Soyuz rocket booster from the Plesetsk launching pad on 28 May 1992. The satellite carries scientific apparatus for continuing space research. The satellite has been placed in an orbit with the following parameters:

—initial period of revolution - 89.7 mins;
—apogee - 350 km;
—perigee - 195 km;
—orbital inclination - 62.9 deg.

Besides scientific apparatus, the satellite carries a radio system for the precise measurement of orbital elements and a radiotelemetry system for transmitting to Earth data about the work of the instruments and scientific apparatus.

The apparatus aboard the satellite is working normally.

The coordinating and computing center is processing the incoming information.

Supreme Soviet

Rutskoy Urges Review of Ossetia, Deployments

LD2805235492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1943 GMT 28 May 92

[Address by Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in Moscow on 28 May; from the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" program—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed Supreme Soviet members, we have just been listening carefully to Nikolay Pavlovich Medvedev. I have had the opportunity to look carefully at the video recording of the events taking place today in South Ossetia. I am reminded here of Berdyayev's reference to incurably soppy political attitudes. Just when will Russia finally acquire some self respect as a state? When will Russia do everything in its power to stop being a doormat of a state? We are sitting here, all together, deliberating about whether this is foreign or domestic policy. Let me tell you that we can discuss this until the cows come home, but the fact is that we still do not have a foreign policy or a domestic policy. It is all purely tentative. They take it into their heads to fly off somewhere, and off they go. They fancy coming out with something, so out they come with it. But in specific terms, we get absolutely nothing resolved. You have known my position on these matters for a long time. You know what my attitude is about all the problems which have arisen on all sides in this state of ours. Esteemed colleagues, until we manage to determine a strategy for our foreign policy and for our domestic policy—albeit just a strategy—toward those foreign countries now on our doorstep and define a strategy for economic reforms or at least for what all of us here are doing... [changes thought] for it [illegible] sufficient to head off from Moscow to any oblast out there. Everyone asks the same questions that have just been asked here.

You know, I am prepared, unlike certain people, to be utterly selfless in complying with any resolution from the Congress of People's Deputies. I am prepared to carry out resolutions from the Supreme Soviet and to implement presidential resolutions. Instructions from the president relating to the matter we are dealing with today already exist. All of this is for just one purpose: ensuring compliance with the documents we all have adopted and ensuring that the Human Rights Declaration is not just a paper declaration but a document held in deep reverence by all, one which everyone will set about implementing.

So here we all sit, deliberating about this. North and South Ossetia. But permit me to ask the following question: I had a conversation on this subject with Eduard Amrosiyevich [Shevardnadze]. He was offended that I could adopt such a tone with him. Is anyone in this land, the former Soviet Union, ever going to take responsibility for what is going on, for the deaths of women, children and old people?

You know—it may not be a decent thing to say—but I would like one or two of those good-natured demagogues to be in a situation in which his children, his entire family, would be killed. I would like to hear how that person would be reasoning then.

Therefore, dear people's deputies, dear members of the Supreme Soviet, there is a resolution of the Third Congress—I am used to high standards in dealing with documents—and there is also a Fifth Congress resolution which clearly and unambiguously stated the need to take measures about South Ossetia. We are talking about South, not North Ossetia. These documents were adopted by the Congress, by the supreme legislative body.

Now let me ask you: If that is not a document, if it is not regarded as a document, why adopt these documents at all? If this situation is, as it has been called here, a civil war in another state and we are watching all this happening and are spurring it on with our own actions, then, pray, what's the use of the Supreme Soviet? What's the use of the president? What's the use of the vice president? What's the use of power in general?

In this connection I want to draw your attention to the draft resolution. It is a draft resolution couched in proper terms. But I believe that the Georgian leadership should realize today that from now on nothing will be allowed to go unpunished. The question was asked: What is meant by commensurate measures? Well, I can tell you what is meant by commensurate measures: When an artillery battery delivers a salvo against a village, a peaceful village, or a town, then the people who fire such batteries are outlaws, they are bandits who should be eliminated, eliminated mercilessly. Because anyone who goes ahead and presses the trigger or firing button, knowing that he is aiming at people who will die, should answer for that in just the same way as those innocent people themselves answer—with his life.

I believe that if the Supreme Soviet adopts the resolution on this matter in just the form in which it is set out in this document, then the Georgian leadership will have cause to think about this.

As for economic sanctions, that was a decision by the Third Congress, a decision by the Third Congress and the Supreme Soviet. I think it was right to have cut the gas pipeline, cut the oil pipeline, cut the Georgian highway. Let them think about it. Let them think about it.

It is for this reason that our servicemen continue to be there. I have raised this issue on several occasions in articles. I have raised here, too, as you will recall, subject of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Checheno-Ingushetiya on several occasions.

But let us look once and for all at the legal status of the presence of our armed forces on the territory of sovereign independent states. How much longer are people to continue to die? How much longer are military formations and units to come under fire? This is why I believe that this resolution you are to pass today should dot all the I's about this. In my view, the Supreme Soviet soon needs to conduct an urgent examination of the matter of the legal status of the presence of our armed forces on the territory of other states.

As for those events asked about here, concerning the internal troops, I shall tell you more. You know that North Caucasus is by far the most complicated region. Just four days ago I met the head of administration of Stavropol Kray and listened carefully to what he had to say. The situation there is difficult, to put it mildly, and tense, too. Instead of stepping up the presence of internal law and order troops there, the North Caucasus Internal Troops Directorate has, in fact, been disbanded.

So who is making decisions and on what basis? Because I am telling you that it is the prerogative of the Supreme Soviet to make these decisions. These decisions can also be made by the minister of internal affairs. But now, reforming the directorate which has been disbanded and setting up a truly reliable system for upholding law and order and protecting our citizens will take five times as long.

So, to end my short address, I appeal to you again: Let's acquire some self respect, first and foremost. Because, if we once begin to respect ourselves then we shall very likely begin to respect the state, too. But as yet we simply do not have either of those things.

Session 'Fails' To Adopt Decision on Ossetia

LD2805175292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1640 GMT 28 May 92

[By Ivan Novikov and Galina Vinitskaya, ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondents]

[Text] Moscow, 28 May—After a long session devoted to the situation in Ossetia, where clashes between the Ossetian population and Georgian guerrillas are taking place, the Russian Supreme Soviet failed to adopt a decision on this issue after all. At the proposal of deputies, this problem will now be examined at the Security Council and the Russian parliament's Presidium.

Nikolay Medvedev, member of the Presidium of the Russian Supreme Soviet, said that the situation in the region was not normalizing. On the contrary, after the tragic events of 20 May when bandits shot at a bus and killed 36 people, the intensity of the shelling of South Ossetia has increased.

While debating the Ossetian situation in the parliament, People's Deputy Sergey Baburin raised the issue of no confidence in the government on the grounds of "the systematic violation and non- fulfillment of decisions of Congresses of Russian Federation People's Deputies that result in human victims," and of "criminal inactivity." Vladimir Isakov leveled similar accusations at the government; in his view "the discussion has exposed the failure of not an individual issue but of the whole policy of the Russian Government."

Yeltsin's Congress Report Placed on Agenda

LD2805111492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1052 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin's report on the fulfillment of the decisions of the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies was put on the agenda in the Russian Parliament at the joint session of its two chambers today. This issue will be discussed in the Supreme Soviet on the proposal of Deputy Yevgeniy Tarasov who criticised the president who, as he put it, "makes a tactless remark regarding legislative authority." Tarasov said the president should have it out with parliament because, as he claimed, Boris Yeltsin "discredits the authority".

Echoing Yevgeniy Tarasov, Deputy Mikhail Chervakov recalled that the Supreme Soviet decided to hear the Russian Government in parliament at least once in two weeks, especially since the president "behaves tactlessly", he added.

Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov asked deputies not to concentrate particular attention on the president's separate statements but to be guided by his concluding remarks at the Congress of People's Deputies, where Yeltsin called upon legislative authority to maintain close cooperation with executive power.

Isakov Suggests Presidential Medical Check-Up

LD2805182392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Galina Vinnitskaya]

[Text] Moscow May 28 TASS—Russian hard-line Deputy Vladimir Isakov, a staunch opponent of Boris Yeltsin, suggested an amendment to the law on the Russian president which would make the head of state liable to a medical check-up authorised by the parliament.

Isakov's proposal is a continuation of his accusations voiced in the Russian parliament on May 15 that "the Russian president was drunk in an official situation".

Isakov told reporters on Thursday [28 May] he proposed that Article 11 of the law should contain the following wording: The impossibility for the president to fulfil his duties because of health reasons is established by a ruling of the Constitutional Court on the basis of the conclusion of a state medical commission appointed by the Russian parliament.

Deputies Forbid Hikes; Khasbulatov Chides Bank

LD2805203192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1856 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—On May 28, Russian parliament forbade Russian Government to raise prices for energy resources without a preliminary approval of the Supreme Soviet.

Valentin Stepankov, Russian prosecutor general, speaking at a session, said that the Russian prosecutor's office began to check up legality of transfer of the IZVESTIYA newspaper property to the collective's ownership. Deputies appointed Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Soviet of the Republic, to head a commission in charge with investigation of the circumstances of this affair.

RF [Russian Federation] parliament's head condemned Central Bank policy.

[Moscow POSTFACTUM in English at 1856 GMT on 28 May carries the following report, datelined Moscow: "Ruslan Khasbulatov, Russian parliament speaker: We do not like the policy of Russia's Central Bank. On May 28 at a session of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov also said: It's time to relive Yuriy Rasskazov, deputy chairman of the Central Bank's directors' council, of his post, as he does nothing else but sabotage. He had long to be dismissed from his post, but it is worthwhile to listen to his report on Thursday [28 May] at the parliament's session. In Khasbulatov's words, the Bank is opposed not to the government, but to the Supreme Soviet, as it does not discuss with the latter its policy. Ruslan Khasbulatov also said that the Bank's leaders are always travelling abroad, although there is no effect of their trips. Khasbulatov also was against a rise in credits rates. The 80 per cent rate for credits means death for the person which takes credits, Ruslan Khasbulatov said, while stressing that he had been against a rise in the credit rates to 50 percent, too."]

Laws on Defense, State Needs Supplies Adopted

LD2805131792 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] A bill on supplies of goods for state needs was adopted today at its second hearing by the Russian Supreme Soviet. The bill establishes the legal and economic principles of the contractual drafting, placing, and execution of orders for supplies of output for state needs by enterprises and organizations, regardless of their form of ownership.

In accordance with the adopted document, the state needs are financed both from budgetary funds and also non-budgetary sources for ensuring specific federal programs of development in the Russian Federation, interstate programs, supplies necessary for the creation and maintenance of the necessary level of material reserves, and also for maintaining the necessary level of defense potential and state security.

Session Media Coverage, Judicial System Viewed

LD2905100192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The joint session of the chambers of the Russian Supreme Soviet opened in stormy fashion today. The deputies insisted on including on the agenda acute questions connected with the situation in the country, in particular in Tyumen Oblast.

Complaints were made about the mass media. In the opinion of the deputies, the broadcast shown yesterday on the Russian television channel, was insulting to parliament. Therefore, it was decided to invite Poptsov, chairman of the television and radio company, to the session.

Only after about an hour did the Supreme Soviet begin discussing the second reading of the draft law on introducing changes and additions to the law of the Russian Federation on the judicial system. It is also planned to discuss today the program of privatizing state and municipal enterprises for 1992, the draft law on the formation of the Ingush Republic within the Russian Federation, to introduce changes and additions to the law of state pensions.

Yesterday the Supreme Soviet adopted a decision to declare 12 June a state holiday of the Russian Federation—Independence Day. [video shows Supreme Soviet session]

Proceedings for 27 May Session Noted

LD2805200492

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1923 GMT on 27 May, in the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" program, carries a report on the work of the Supreme Soviet, included a recording from the Soviet of the Republic session in Moscow on 27 May.

At 1923 GMT the announcer says that the Supreme Soviet worked in separate chambers today. The recording begins at 1925 GMT with Deputy Ryabov chairing the Soviet of the Republic session. In the Soviet of the Republic Ryabov was in the chair. The first item on the agenda was a draft law on amendments and additions to the Code on Administrative Offenses, the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. A speaker outlines the changes being proposed in respect of liability for traffic violations. A vote is taken and the first reading of the draft law is adopted.

At 1930 GMT the draft law on the status of closed administrative territorial entities is discussed. The floor is presented to Valeriy Aleksandrovich Kirpishchikov, member of the committee on the work of Soviets of People's Deputies and the development of self-government. He says that the draft law is the first attempt to give legality to the entities which actually already exist. There are all told 47 closed towns in the Russian Federation. Ten of these come under the Ministry of Atomic Energy and 37 under the Ministry of Defense. The main reason for these closed zones now is not secrecy but rather safety considerations. In answer to a question the speaker says that about 2 million people reside in these 47 closed towns. A vote is taken and the bill is adopted. The vote is 100 for, none against, and two abstentions.

At 1940 GMT Aleksandr Pochinok is given the floor to present a supplementary estimate covering expenditure on the work of the Supreme Soviet. Costs have been going up all the time, for instance, on the cost of travel for delegations going abroad. A vote is taken and the supplementary estimate is adopted. The vote is 93 for, seven against and two abstentions.

At 1944 GMT the now shows an unnamed artist and counsellor to Russian vice president addressing deputies about the catastrophe now affecting Russian culture. There is a need for a law on culture to be adopted as soon as possible so that our culture is protected, he says. He condemns the huge number of icons that have been sold off to foreigners and sent abroad. Ryabov puts the draft law on culture to vote. It is adopted with 84 votes for, one against, and two abstentions.

At 1950 GMT, Justice Minister Nikolay Vasilyevich Fedorov outlines the main points of the law on notaries. The organization of the work and pay of notaries is very poor and needs improving, he says. The draft law is adopted after discussion, with 93 votes for, six against and one abstention.

At 1956 GMT the announcer says that the Soviet of Nationalities discussed the same issues. Abdulatipov presided and he is shown presenting a medal to someone.

The program ends at 1959 GMT.

Proceedings of 28 May Session Noted

LD2905014592

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1943 GMT on 28 May carries the "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" program, a recorded report on that day's Supreme Soviet session.

Video shows the Supreme Soviet chamber as voice-over commentary by an unidentifed narrator says the joint session opened with an approval of a bill on supplies of goods for state needs.

Nikolay Medvedev then reports on his visit to Ossetia with a parliamentary delegation. Medvedev says the situation there has not returned to normal. He describes the damage his delegation saw and outlines the economic sanctions imposed on Georgia by North Ossetia after the killings on 20 May. He recalls the North Ossetian parliament's warning about its attitude to the Federation Treaty if Russia does not act.

At 1948 GMT, Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy comes to the floor and speaks on the Ossetian issue. Rutkoy warns that people firing on villages are bandits. He says Georgians will be forced to think if the Supreme Soviet passes a resolution on the issue. He also calls for examination of the status of Russian troops in other republics.

At 1957 GMT, Deputy Pavlov asks Rutskoy if he has been as firm in cabinet meetings as he has been today, since the government has done nothing to help. Rutskoy replies that his position is well known.

Another deputy asks what Rutskoy thinks of Gavriil Popov's talks with Georgian leaders in defiance of the Russian parliament's decisions. Rutskoy says all officials must be responsible for their actions.

Deputy Baburin asks why parliament's decisions are flouted and proposes a vote of no confidence in the government.

Another deputy asks what difference the proposed resolution will make. Rutskoy reviews the background to the Ossetian issue and calls for clear decisions.

At 2009 GMT, the report shows Stavropol's Deputy Bystrov assertion that America will soon declare Russia a zone of its interests.

Another deputy asks what might cause full-scale hostilies between North Ossetia and Georgia. Rutskoy does not rule out this possibility.

Next, Deputy Rumyantsev contrasts Rutskoy's decisiveness with Yeltsin's indecision and asks if the Security Council has yet tackled the issue. Rutskoy replies in the negative.

Deputy Tarasov calls for a group to prepare a document on all aspects of the Caucasian problem.

Then, in response to another deputy who asks if the government is seeking to restore an authoritarian regime, Rutskoy speaks in favor of a centrist position aimed at strengthening statehood. He complains about lack of accountability.

The report concludes at 2023 GMT as another deputy calls for this part of the day's proceedings to be broadcast in full. The motion is carried.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Arrives in Ulan-Ude; Addresses Workers

Considers Economic Agreement

LD2805163692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1220 GMT 28 May 92

[Excerpts] So what is happening today in Buryatia. ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov reports. We are listening.

[Trofimov] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's first working day in Buryatia ended literally a few minutes ago. He attended a concert by star performers. The visit began at the airport where he arrived from Barnaul and where he had his first meeting with journalists and the townspeople. Replying to a journalist's question as to the aim of his visit to Buryatia, he noted that alongside familiarizing himself with the course of economic reforms, he intends to discuss a number of difficult problems, including the ecology of the Baykal, the problems of the BAM [Baykul-Amur mainline] zone, and the revival of the Buryat people's culture. Boris Yeltsin noted that this is his first visit to the former autonomy since the signing of the Federation Treaty. At the same time, he stressed that he has brought with him on this visit a draft economic agreement that will be discussed and possibly signed. He noted that it would in principle be good if the document was ready for signing, but if any questions arise then it would be better to revise it and then return to it.

At the airport itself and later in the town centre, Boris Yeltsin met the republic's workers. The president went out to meet townspeople who had come to greet him. In the conversation, the residents of the capital of Buryatia inquired about matters relating to spiralling prices and the course of the implementation of social welfare. Boris Nikolayevich noted, as he did in the Altay, that people need to be patient until the end of the year when the economy will level out and things will be easier for them. [passage omitted]

Outside the theater, the president was met by townspeople. All in all, throughout the day he has, on the whole, been greeted warmly and amiably. However, a picket by the Buryat-Mongolian People's Party was set up outside the theatre at which members of this party held up placards demanding the reunification of Buryat-Mongolian lands and condemning the empire. [passage omitted]

And so, literally a few minutes ago, the Russian president left for his residence to rest. Tomorrow is the second day and the president plans to visit an association of peasant farms and meet priests of the Spiritual Administration of Russian Buddhists, which is in the ancient Ivolginskiy temple. The final event in Yeltsin's visit to the former autonomy will be a meeting with leaders of the republic, a number industrial enterprises and of the Buryat section of BAM. And it is at this meeting that the draft economic agreement will be discussed.

Addresses Price Hikes

MK2905094292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 May 92 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report under "Russia" rubric: "'You Can Kill Me, But There Will Still Be Another Price Hike,' President Yeltsin Reassured Buryat Housewives"]

[Text] On arriving in Ulan-Ude 28 May the Russian president immediately set off for a semidilapidated meat combine where, an hour later, having promised 25 million [currency not specified] for reconstruction, he did not falter under the onslaught of workers speaking about speculation and overly high prices, merely remarking: "You can kill me, beat me, but there will be another price hike." He took the IMF to task again for "dictating" that free prices be set for energy sources and then left for the residence and headquarters of the commander in chief of the Far East forces. But that does not mean, Yuriy Petrov, head of the president's administration, explained, that any military problems are included in the schedule.

Boris Nikolayevich came to speak about the republic's economy and environmental situation. Today during talks at the Buryat Council of Ministers a draft intergovernmental economic agreement will be discussed. As for the environmental situation, there is the problem of Baykal and the Baykal-Amur Railroad. As an environmental expert and the president's adviser, Academician Yablokov is representing the president's interests.

In addition, during all his meetings with people on the street Yeltsin persistently conducted his own kind of sociological poll, asking: "Do you support reform or not?" In Buryatia, unlike Barnaul, he received more positive answers, enabling him to draw his first conclusions as to which areas support his planned referendum on a presidential republic and which do not.

Buryatia is the first republic the Russian president has visited since the signing of the Federation Treaty. Incidentally, local inhabitants claim that the last major politician to visit Ulan-Ude was Kalinin. They say that Gorbachev intended to come, but did not. Residents of Ulan-Ude discussed this problem on the square in front of the Opera and Ballet Theater (it put on a concert yesterday in Yeltsin's honor). "Of course, today's an event. Brezhnev didn't come here." The president almost came to grief in the crush of the crowd owing to the considerable interest in him. But he managed to scrutinize a few slogans as he entered the theater: "We demand the reunification of the Buryat-Mongolian lands," "No Russia in Buryatia—Buryatia alone." They were representatives of the Buryat-Mongolian People's Party.

Views Federation Treaty, Reforms

OW2805143692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Yeltsin has confirmed the determination to continue radical reforms and expressed confidence that the economy will be stabilized before the end of the year. He made this statement on Thursday [28 May] during his meeting with residents of Ulan Ude, the capital of Buryatia, where he arrived from Barnaul. "Russia has no other alternative," he said. "I know that the people are experiencing enormous difficulties," he continued, "but the reforms must be implemented to the end. This is a matter of life."

Boris Yeltsin, who is making a tour of the Altay and Buryatia, also announced that the government intends to increase wages and to accompany price rise with further steps to strengthen social guarantees.

Answering IF [INTERFAX] special correspondent Boris Grishchenko's question, Yeltsin said that his decision to visit Buryatia is explained by his desire to "follow the implementation of the reforms in the republics of the Russian Federation on his own." This is particularly important following the signing of the Federation Treaty, said Yeltsin. He also said that the reforms must be consistent and energetic.

Yeltsin devoted the whole of his first day in Ulan-Ude to the discussion of the inter-governmental economic agreement between Buryatia and Russia. One of his experts said that this agreement may lay a solid foundation for new and equitable political relations between Russia and its constituent republics.

With the Buryat leaders Yeltsin will discuss ways of enhancing the efficiency of the Baykal-Amur Mainline (BAM), a railway conceived as a back-up to the eastern wing of the Trans-Siberian Railway. BAM was put into operation more than ten years ago. However, its faulty project makes its full-scale utilization problematical.

On Friday, May 29, the president will visit the Association of Farmers, the Republican Exhibition Center and an ancient Buddhist temple. He will also meet with the Buryat leaders and managers of a number of enterprises in the BAM zone.

Boris Yeltsin confirmed that economic issues will not relegate the problems of reviving Buryatia's national culture and restoring its historical monuments. Neither will they dim environmental-protection issues, he remarked.

Yeltsin is expected to return to Moscow on Friday evening.

Blames CPSU for Current Situation

LD2805214592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian President Yeltsin met officials and local inhabitants in Buryatia.

According to reports from there, the president wants to see for himself, from Buryatia's example, just how effective the Federation Treaty is, and he brought with him a draft of an intergovernmental economic agreement, similar to the one that was signed with Tatarstan.

During the trip, Yeltsin also spoke on general problems. He intends to obtain the introduction of a presidential form of power in the country, and he is ready to start gathering signatures in favor of a referendum, even against the will of the electorate.

He stated that there is clearly a parliamentary crisis and that opponents of reform are stepping up their activities. In Yeltsin's opinion, the CPSU, which in the past brought the country to destruction and the people to impoverishment, is to blame for the complexity of the present situation.

Yeltsin stated that judgment should be passed upon the CPSU.

Meets Farmers, Buddhists

OW2905105392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 29 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday [29 May] the Russian President Boris Yeltsin is to complete his tour to Buryatia and to return to Moscow (in the evening). In the morning he visited an association of agricultural farms not far from Buryatia's capital Ulan-Ude. He spoke on the necessity to increase the rate of the land reform's implementation. Yeltsin promised to break down all the hindrances on the way to their realization. "I firmly stand for farmers", the Russian President declared.

Then he visited a Buddhist temple and monastery in Ivolginsk datsan and talked to the religious persons. The head of the Russian Buddhists khambo lama Munko Tsybikov assured Yeltsin that the Buddhists support the President and will pray for his reforms.

Yeltsin met with the leaders of the enterprises located in the zone of the Baykal-Amur Mainline [BAM] and spoke on the necessity to attract investments to the BAM zone as the main goal of the present moment. He stressed the need of developing poorly comprised projects and, in particular, the projects on the North-Mulsk tunnels which have a strategic significance.

Receives Appeal for Lake Baykal

LD2905103492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0809 GMT 29 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Trofimov]

[Text] Ulan-Ude May 29 TASS—A group of scientists and experts of Buryatia addressed Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is on a visit to Buryatia, with an appeal: "Save the Baykal Lake "

In an open letter published in "PRAVDA BURYATII" local newspaper, its authors state with an alarm that the industrial, agricultural and biological pollution of this unique freshwater lake is going on. It is resulting in changes in the biochemical and physical composition and structure of this "sacred sea". The flora and fauna of the lake area are also dying. According to the authors of the letter, it is necessary to speed up the working out and the adoption of a Russian law on the protection of the Baykal Lake, a law which should have a clear state conception of saving the lake.

Khabarovsk Storehouses Missing Warheads

LD2805201692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1856 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Incidents" section]

[Text] Khabarovsk—Representative of the Russian president for Khabarovsk territory is personally engaged with looking for 23 nuclear warheads which disappeared from military storehouses in Komsomolsk-on-Amur in March this year. On May 27 Vladimir Desyatov, Russian president's representative for Khabarovsk area, further told PF [POSTFACTUM]: Warheads with a power of 20 megatons were kept in Komsomolsk-on-Amur for some 15 years, although their owner or destination are unknown. Vladimir Desyatov refused to tell possible reasons of the disappearance of the ammunition, referring it was state secret. Some military experts believe that the lost warheads could belong to the ammunition of the nuclear submarines produced at the plant named after Lenin Komsomol in Komsomolsk-on-Amur.

According to some data, it is forbidden to keep and supply submarines with nuclear ammunition. According to other information, the nuclear warheads can belong to medium-range ballistic missiles SS-20 (900-1100 km) of those stationed on the land in the Far Eastern Military District, which were to be destroyed according to the international agreement on cutting the medium-range missiles. In the opinion of some former officers of the Far Eastern Military District, ammunition of this kind should not be kept in such quantities in military units.

North Ossetia Condemns South Ossetian Shooting

*LD2105174592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1724 GMT 21 May 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 21 ITAR-TASS—Tragic events in South Ossetia were discussed by an extraordinary session of the parliament of the North Ossetian Republic which ended in Vladikavkaz on Thursday [21 May].

The parliament worked in a tense situation. Thousands of residents of Vladikavkaz and refugees from South Ossetia held a rally in Svoboda Square in front of the parliament building on Thursday. They demanded to find who was guilty of killing at least 30 people, most of them women, children and elderly people, near Kekhviy village. They also demanded that those guilty of the killing be turned over to law enforcement bodies of South Ossetia in whose territory the crime was perpetrated.

The resolution says that despite measures taken in the recent days by leaders of North and South Ossetia to end the war lasting three years, Georgian militants fired at point-blank range at refugees from South Ossetia on May 20. The session condemned "this act of brutality by Georgian bandits" and expressed condolences to the bereaved families. Nationwide mourning was announced in the territory of North Ossetia from May 21 through May 24.

A protest was lodged with the Georgian State Council. The session also decreed to block the military Georgian highway, to cut off gas supply to Georgia until the situation in South Ossetia stabilises, to comply with the regime of the state of emergency in Vladikavkaz, to tighten checks on all kinds of transport, to recruit volunteers to be sent to protect South Ossetia, to prohibit the taking of weapons, equipment and ammunition out of North Ossetia, to speed up the manufacture of fire arms at enterprises of Vladikavkaz.

The deputies unanimously endorsed the texts of addresses to the Russian president and parliament, to heads of state and parliament of the CIS countries, to the United Nations, and the leaders of territories and regions of the Northern Caucasus urging them to demand that the Georgian leaders stop terror against the people of South Ossetia and send their representatives of the republic.

The North Ossetian parliament declared that the Ossetian people reserve the right to take appropriate measures in response to actions of the Georgian side.

North Ossetia Accuses Russia of Indifference

*LD2205130892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1024 GMT 22 May 92*

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 22 TASS—North Ossetia, which makes part of Russia, blasted the Russian leadership on Friday [22 May] which it said is indifferent about the fate of Ossetian people.

36 Ossetian refugees were killed this week by Georgian militants. The massacre broke hope for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in South Ossetia.

The republican parliament "expresses its extreme indignation over the unprincipled and criminally-indifferent position of the Russian leadership". North Ossetian mass media said on Friday quoting an appeal of the parliament to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"The parliament and Government of Russia and you personally did not use either political or economic sanctions against Georgia. Moreover, (Russian) troops were withdrawn from South Ossetia (which is part of Georgia) in this critical moment", the appeal said.

There can be no explanation to such an "attitude to the tragedy of people who during the whole of their history proved loyalty to Russia and want to remain with Russia. We once again appeal to you to use all your authority in the name of saving the Ossetian people and stopping the bloodshed", the document said.

Military Highway Closed, Gas Supply Halted

*LD2205060192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network
in Russian 0500 GMT 22 May 92*

[Text] An extraordinary session of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet today decided to completely close the Georgian military highway and to halt gas supplies to Georgia until the situation in South Ossetia has been stabilized and the genocide against the Ossetian people stopped. The North Ossetian parliament also appealed to the Russian leadership for arms and uniforms to be supplied to the National Guard, threatening that if this request is refused it will nationalize the weaponry of units stationed within the republic.

Supreme Soviet Denies Mountain Peoples Passage

*LD2405010792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network
in Russian 1900 GMT 23 May 92*

[Text] Galazov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of North Ossetia, has categorically refused to allow detachments of the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the

Caucasus to cross the republic's territory toward Tskhinvali. This association of national-radical organizations of the peoples of the northern Caucasus and Abkhazia had asked Galazov to allow its fighters, making up a so-called battalion, passage to South Ossetia. The RIA agency reports that Galazov explained his refusal by asserting that such a step by the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus would be fraught with unforeseeable consequences, including war throughout the Caucasus.

Appeal to Parliament Threatens Secession

LD2705170692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] The situation in South Ossetia remains tense, therefore it is not by chance that we have devoted a lot of attention to this region in today's Panorama. Here is another piece of news reported by the RIA agency.

North Ossetia has no choice but to put forward a constitutional initiative now on withdrawing from Russia and establishing an independent state if the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet will not make the necessary efforts to halt the bloodshed in South Ossetia. This is stated in an appeal to the Russian parliament.

Political Developments in North Ossetia Viewed

MK2905080792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 May 92 p 3

[Report by Liana Minasyan "Caucasus": "Public Opinion Coming to Power: Leaders in Tbilisi and Vladikavkaz Must Take This Into Account"]

[Text] The resolution adopted at the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet session 21 May (an appeal to the Georgian State Council to halt the genocide in South Ossetia, the decision to cut off the Georgian Military Highway and the gas pipeline, and the demand that the Russian authorities arm the North Ossetian republican guard) was not just a formal protest to Georgia but also a "penultimate" warning to the federal authorities in Russia. The latter now must face a socialist realist choice between a dubious prospect and one which is even less encouraging: to make itself an ally out of the unstable regime in Tbilisi or expect an uprising on its own territory. As a result of their "flexible" policy, the North Ossetian authorities have tried to remain loyal to Moscow at a time when the Russian parliament ought to defend the republic's borders against attacks inspired by the Law on Peoples subjected to Repressions) while at the same time watching closely to see whether some vague vision would materialize into the Confederation of the Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus [CMPC] to leave themselves room for maneuver.

They will hardly expect the central authorities now to do what was promised by the decisions of two Russian congresses—those decisions were adopted on the basis of a fanciful logic in which politicians, with the situation in South Ossetia in mind, were inspired partly by humanitarian considerations, but more by anti-Zviad fervor. To apply those sanctions now against the Shevardnadze government would be to undermine one of their allies: It would inspire not only Zviad's nervous supporters and the orthodox opposition among the followers of Shengeliya and Chanturiya, but also those who effected the January change of power in Tbilisi. What they wanted from the chairman of the State Council was reconciliation, not so much with South Ossetia as with Russia and the West. That has been achieved—not just international indulgence but also something which never happened under Gamsakhurdia—good relations with the command of the Transcaucasus Military District and the transfer to the State Council of part of the district's weapons.

Right after the tragedy in which refugees were gunned down on the Tskhinvali-Vladikavkaz highway, the Vladikavkaz authorities closed the Georgian Military Highway and the gas pipeline into Georgia, a radical step which they took under "pressure of public opinion," thus letting Moscow know that they would heed public opinion so long as it pozes a threat to the Ossetian leaders themselves. However, the Russian parliament ignored the hint and expressed condolences to the Ossetians while also giving the Georgian State Council hope. To save face, the North Ossetian parliament will now have to find a new way to behave in the conflict. Admittedly, there is less room for maneuver now; even though there is no more or less well organized opposition in North Ossetia, the naive antinomenklatura ferment in people's minds is focused on the idea of Caucasian solidarity. The people at a rally outside the Supreme Soviet building in Vladikavkaz were clearly opponents of Russia's "flaccid response" policy. If the time to choose does come, that notorious public opinion will side with the CMPC. The impetus for that came from Tskhinvali—because of the ongoing war, the South Ossetian leaders do not have a great choice and side with anyone who supports them and so far it is the CMPC which has shown the republic unconditional support. Aleksandr Dzasokhov, a former CPSU leader, paid an unsuccessful visit to Tskhinvali, one which eye witnesses say ended with a public dressing down by his fellow South Ossetians and earned a sharp reuke from Alan Chochiyev, one of the South Ossetian leaders, who stated that South Ossetia has its own elected leaders who will represent its interests. This flop showed that the North Ossetian leadership's direct and indirect means of influencing the South's leaders are limited. South Ossetia is increasingly becoming a case apart, forced to concern itself less with its spotless political reputation than with survival. Given the military parity that exists between Georgians and Ossetians, it is Tskhinval which will determine whose proposals meet its interests—those from Moscow, Vladikavkaz, or Tbilisi. If Georgia's leaders are to simultaneouslty control "separatism" and a Georgian public opinion weighed down by anti-Ossetian feelings, they will either have to sacrifice their liberal reputation or concede Ossetia to its own people and power to others.

'Terrorists' Arrested in Groznyy

LD2605020192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2235 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 26 May (ITAR-TASS)—A plan on the protection of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and his vehicle's schedule was discovered with a group of terrorists who have been detained by the republic's National Security Service in Groznyy. As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports today, the three people who have been arrested have admitted that they had arrived in the capital to carry out a terrorist act.

It has been established that one of the detainees, the son of a former KGB staffer who came from a KGB family, is also a staff member of the secret service attached to Georgia's State Council. Criminal proceedings have been instituted, based on the fact that an attempt against the president of Checheniya had been prepared.

Chechen Armed Forces To Have Tanks, Air Force

OW2805121192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1142 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Chechen armed forces are expected to consist of armored and tank units, motorized infantry, artillery and air force. A national guard, an Interior Ministry regiment and a customs and border guard regiment are also to be set up. This was reported to IF [INTERFAX] by the chairman of the defence and security committee of the Chechen parliament Ibragim Suleymenov. In his opinion the total size of the republic's armed forces should not exceed 10,000 men.

He was sure that the Chechen leadership will manage to agree with the command of the Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces on supplying the Chechen army with the necessary military hardware.

According to Mr. Suleymenov, the staff of the armed forces has been set up and is led by Lieutenant-General Viskhon Shakhabov. President Dzhokhar Dudayev is the Commander-in-Chief.

He stressed that the military doctrine of his country is purely defensive.

Speaking of the system of guarding Chechen borders Mr. Suleymenov stressed that no control belts will be formed. There will only be several customs checkpoints where border guards will work together with customs officials.

International Affairs

Vice Premier Notes Armed Forces Planned Cuts

LD2805223192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 28 May 92

[Report on news conference by Vladimir Lanovyy, Ukrainian vice prime minister and economic minister, in Moscow; date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Vladimir Lanovyy, vice premier and minister of economics of Ukraine, the Ukrainian colleague of Yegor Gaydar, is in Moscow at the latter's invitation. They discussed the problems of the economies of both countries. As a result of the talks, in the words of the Ukraine vice premier, he came to the conclusion that both the former Union and the CIS have no prospects as far as the economy is concerned, although it's a different matter as far as politics go. Ukraine should place its stake mainly on bilateral relations with Russia.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Does Ukraine intend to repay foreign debts?

[Lanovyy] Our foreign debt amounts to 20 percent of the total debt of the former Union. We still intend to pay back just percentages of these debts, our share. The necessary structure is not ready yet.

[Correspondent] Will Ukraine sell weapons?

[Lanovyy] The arms trade is the most profitable business—I stress that that is my personal remark. Ukraine intends to cut its expenditure on arms 13 times and four times on the armed forces of the republic. [end recording]

UN Envoy Holds News Conference on Crimea

LD2905041692 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 27 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mykola Maslov]

[Excerpts] Ukraine's permanent mission at the United Nations has handed to Secretary General Butrus Ghali the text of the note from the Ukraine Foreign Ministry to the Russian Foreign Ministry in connection with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's adoption of a resolution "On the Legal Appraisal of the Decisions of the Supreme Bodies of State power of the RSFSR on Changing the Status of Crimea Which were Adopted in 1954."

At UN Headquarters, Viktor Batyuk, Ukraine's permanent representative at the UN, held a news conference. Commenting on recent events, he stressed that a unilateral attempt to cast doubt by legislative means on the legality of existing borders between two sovereign states—UN members and participants of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe—and rejecting responsibilities taken upon themselves, including those connected with the treaty between the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] and the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic of 19 November 1990 and the agreement on creating the Commonwealth of Independent States of 8 December 1991, may lead to the break up of stability on the continent.

At the news conference the unconditional circumstance was emphasized that the question of transferring the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR was resolved in accordance with the legislation which was in force at the time, including the constitutions of the USSR, the RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR. We have developed good and equal relations with neighboring countries, continued V. Batyuk, and only the eastern neighbor claims, directly or indirectly, part of the territory of Ukraine.

On the same day, when the Supreme Soviet of Russia approved the resolution, an extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament adopted the decision to repeal the resolution on the act on state independence of Crimea, which had been adopted earlier. By the decision of the session, the effect of the resolution of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea of 5 May "On Holding a pan-Crimean Referendum" has been suspended until 10 June. The parliament addressed the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine with the proposition to simultaneously suspend the effect of the law of Ukraine "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" and the discussion of the draft law on representation of the president of Ukraine in Crimea. [passage omitted]

Asked if Ukraine plans to appeal to the UN Secretary General to take some action regarding the problem of Crimea, the permanent representative of Ukraine at the UN said: "We try to resolve all problems through negotiations, but at the same time we want the world to know about all our problems and about our position. If the need arises, naturally, we will appeal to the world community for help. But now we just tell you about the situation which has developed. Unfortunately, not all the information which foreign mass media receives about us is objective. We were a province of the Soviet Union and still have a provincial level of development in our means of information. The news which the world receives about us is in reality a reflection of how Moscow sees [words indistinct] point of view on these Kiev events." [passage omitted]

Communique Issued on CSFR Leader's Visit

LD2805221492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 1255 GMT 27 May 92

[Joint communique on the results of the official visit to Ukraine of M. Calfa, the head of the CSFR Government]

[Text] The delegation of Czech and Slovak Federative Republic headed by Marian Calfa, the head of the government, was on an official visit in Kiev on 25 May, 1992 on the invitation of V.P. Fokin, the prime minister of Ukraine.

In the course of negotiations with L.M. Kravchuk, the president of Ukraine, V.P. Fokin, the prime minister of Ukraine, and I.S. Plyushch, the chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, an exchange of opinions on a wide range of issues of Ukrainian-Czechoslovak relations and international life took place.

In the course of the visit it was noted that both countries were striving for strengthening friendly and good-neighborly relations and discussed were specific directions of further development of Ukrainian-Czechoslovak mutually beneficial cooperation in the political, economic, humanitarian and other spheres which corresponds both to their national interests and the cause of building a new Europe united by general human values. The sides informed each other of the internal political and economic situation in both countries. The sides expressed mutual interest in establishing a Ukrainian-Czechoslovak dialogue, in the first place, on issues of special significance of providing for urgent domestic needs of the two countries, and in instilling their relations with specific meaning.

The sides touched, in particular, on the situation on the Ukrainian-Czechoslovak border. The Ukrainian side expressed readiness to take necessary measures to improve the functioning of the examining and clearing posts. The sides agreed on setting up a joint commission of experts which by the end of June of this year will work out specific proposals as regards settling the existing problems connected with Krivog Rog mining and concentrating combine. The sides agreed to create by 31 August 1992 a work group in order to settle issues connected with moving to CSFR Ukrainian citizens of Czech and Slovak origins. The issue of Ukraine's participation in repaying debts of the former USSR was touched upon in general.

The addition to the agreement of 30 July, 1991 on trade and economic links between the Ukrainian SSR and CSFR, which was signed in the course of the visit, will foster further development of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Topical issues of instilling this agreement with specific meaning were discussed at a joint Ukrainian-Czechoslovak conference on prospects of social and economic development of Ukraine and economic relations between Ukraine and CSFR. Representatives of trade and industrial circles of both countries took part in it. The Czechoslovak side expressed readiness to study the possibility of selling grain and other goods to Ukraine.

Ukraine and CSFR agreed that the treaty on good-neighborly relations, friendly relations and cooperation between Ukraine and CSFR elevate relations between the two countries to a qualitatively higher level.

The ceremonial opening of the CSFR Embassy in Kiev took place during the visit.

M. Calfa gave L.M. Kravchuk, the president of Ukraine, a letter from V. Havel, the president of CSFR, with an invitation to come on an official visit to CSFR. On his behalf he also invited V.P. Fokin, the prime minister of Ukraine, to visit CSFR. The invitations were accepted with gratitude.

Armenian Ministry Delegation Visits Kiev

NC2705200792 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1850 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] An Armenian Foreign Ministry delegation, led by First Deputy Foreign Minister Arman Kirakosyan, is on a working visit to Kiev.

The delegation met with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko and Deputy Ministers Nikolay (Magarevich) and Boris (Tarachik). Matters pertaining to the drafting of the agreements on interstate relations between Armenia and Ukraine, cultural cooperation, and on cooperation between Foreign Ministries, and political, economic, and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meetings. The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and the political solution of the problem were other issues viewed.

The members of the Armenian delegation also met the administrative council of the Armenian community of Kiev, and took part in a ceremony dedicated to Armenian independence day.

Kravchuk Receives Yemeni Foreign Minister

LD2905103792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1842 GMT 28 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev—TASS]

[Text] Kiev, May 28 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received visiting Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali on Thursday [28 May].

Kravchuk noted the mutual desire of both countries to bring the relations between the two countries to a new level.

During the meeting Kravchuk said the Ukranian leadership was interested in the development of close contacts with the Middle East countries and added that it should rely on a proper international legal basis.

The Yemeni foreign minister delivered an oral message from Yemeni leader 'Ali Abdallah Salih wishing success to Ukraine after it had gained independence.

The united Yemen, which is following the road of democracy, comes out for the development of historical friendly ties with the former Soviet republics, Al-Dali said.

Al-Dali also informed Kravchuk of Yemen's intention to open the Yemeni Embassy in Ukraine.

National Affairs

Government Allocates Additional Funds To Crimea

LD2805174792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1646 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow, May 28 TASS—Ukraine decided to allocate additional six billion roubles to the Crimea which seeks independence. Those are mostly material resources to be invested into social programmes of the peninsula, according to Ukrainian Economy Minister Volodmyrr Lanovoyy.

The resources will be used to develop the weak infrustructure of the Crimea, he told reporters in Moscow on Thursday [28 May].

Lanovoyy also added that financial decentralisation envisaged in Ukraine might help the Crimea easily solve its credit and monetary problems.

Crimeans, Ukrainians Discuss Separation of Power

LD2805222192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1634 GMT 28 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, May 28—Representatives of the permanent commission for legislation and legality of the Ukranian parliament and deputies from the corresponding commission of the Crimean parliament were discussing for two days separation of powers between Ukraine and the Crimea and the republic's status.

"We have received the Crimean delegation twice in Kiev before the meeting", Aleksandr Kotsyuba, chairman of the Ukrainian parliamentary commission, told UKRINFORM. "We have now arrived in the Crimea to familiarise ourselves with conditions in which the Crimean Parliament works. Taking into account the situation, we shall be jointly working to bring laws and the Constitution of the Crimea in accordance with laws and the Constitution of Ukraine. I believe this joint activity will help us better to prepare materials and proposals for our parliaments", he said.

"We have brought along tables clearly showing in what way normative acts adopted by the Crimean parliament contradict the Ukrainian Constitution", the head of the Ukrainian delegation said. "On this basis we could have criticised the Crimean Constitution. But this would be wrong. It has just been adopted. Taking the road of the construction of a sovereign state, we should use legal methods and rely on negotiations. This will apparently be a long, complicated and painful road, but it should be covered verifying each step and protecting the interests of all ethnic groups. Changes should be made not only in the Crimean Constitution but, if it is acceptable for both sides, in the Ukrainian Constitution as well", he said.

'Authority' Main Stumbling Block

LD2805230192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Judging by the aims which were declared, talks between deputies of Ukraine and the Crimea in Simferopol were held in order to find a compromise in the confrontation between the peninsula and the central government in Kiev. According to our correspondent, as the result of the two-day discussions the inhabitants of the Crimea remained with a grudge.

[Correspondent V. Plotnikov] It was a mistake for their colleagues in Simferopol to try to have objections and when the guests switched to Ukrainian some Crimean deputies left the venue. The issue of authority is the main stumbling block. The recent resolution by the Ukrainian parliament on the status of the Crimean Autonomous Republic does not give the Crimea most vital rights and, strictly speaking, this circumstance gave rise to the current crisis in the relations between Ukraine and the Crimea. What have the participants in the meeting finally achieved?

[I.I. Polyakov, chairman of the Legality Commission, Crimean Supreme Soviet] We have agreed on the following: We should continue work in the future and, first of all, on demarcation of powers between Ukraine and the Crimea, that is, we should go back to an agreement which was worked out by the two delegations—of Ukraine and of the Crimean Republic—but which did not find full support when the law on the status of the Crimean Autonomous Republic was adopted.

[Plotnikov] Meanwhile, the date that the Crimean Republican Movement insisted on for holding a session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet on the referendum issue expired today. The Crimean Republican Movement executive committee warned that it reserved the right to call citizens for civil disobedience acts.

More on Talks

LD2905105892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Report over video by correspondent L. Khatayevich; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Parliamentarians of Ukraine and Crimea have been working in Simferopol. Our correspondent described the discussions that took place there as a conversation between people speaking different languages. And that is exactly what happened, because when the guests started speaking Ukrainian, the Crimean deputies walked out of the meeting. The subject of discussion was the question of powers. The Crimeans consider that Ukraine is depriving them of the most vital rights. Unfortunately, there has been only one result from the meeting so far—that it is necessary to continue work.

Republic's Military Expenditures Noted

LD1905180892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 May 92

From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The cold war has ended. But a rather more serious threat is now coming from internal conflicts among members of the CIS themselves. The former republics are working on their own military doctrines and are recalculating budget expenditure on the army. Specifically, in the Ukrainian budget, to 120,000 million of 620,000 million. [currency not specified; sentence as heard] That's direct expenditure on the army. As Leopold Obolenskiy, a people's deputy from Dnepropetrovsk, notes, spending on the military-industrial complex is concealed in virtually every other article. He does not think that Ukraine's economy will be able to bear such a militarized budget.

President Nazarbayev will be discussing his own military doctrine in Moscow.

Split in Ukrainian Republican Party Reported

LD2805173392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 27 May 92

[Excerpts] Why have Ukrainian Republican Party split? This is the topic of our next story. [passage omitted] Since the very thought about possible split within the party of the former political prisoners seemed inadmissible these different approaches were not legalized in the charter of the party. That is why the agenda of the third congress of the Ukrainian Republican Party held on May 1 and 2 this year included only report of its chairman, Levko Lukyanenko. Many delegates were against such a decision. They stressed that even the Communist Party admitted different views. Deputy Chairman, Stepan Khmara insisted on including his co-report in the agenda. But he was not given the floor. After this People's Deputy Stepan Khmara made a statement on his quitting Ukrainian Republican Party. Here is what Levko Lukyanenko said after this:

[Lukyanenko in Ukrainian fading to announcer-read English translation] We all support independence of Ukraine, but all of us have different views about this independence. We also have different tactics and want to fulfill our tasks in different ways and this is quite natural since this corresponds to conditions of activities of different political forces in a democratic society. [passage omitted]

Speaking after this Stepan Khmara tried to analyze activities of Ukrainian Republican Party in the period between two congresses, the second and the third. He characterized this period as the one of missed opportunities, says Stepan Khmara.

[Khmara in Ukrainian fading to announcer-read English translation] Ukrainian Republican Party has not become an influential political force able to change the course of political life in Ukraine. The party as if has separated itself from real life. It seems to forget about its main goal—protection of civil, economic, and political rights of citizens of Ukraine. The leaders of the party ignore initiative of its members. [passage omitted]

Guards Seize, Detain Refugees at Border

LD2805140292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The National Guard Border Troops Command of the Odessa Military District has taken part in a conference in Odessa devoted to the situation on the Ukraine-Moldovan border, RIKA reports. Colonel General Hubenko, commander of the Ukrainian border troops, said at a news conference that since the establishment of a special security regime, 150 items of weaponry have been confiscated on the border. Approximately 500 citizens from third countries—Bulgaria, Romania, and states of the CIS—have been detained. During the past few days the flow of refugees has increased considerably. So far, 3,000 people have crossed into the territory of Ukraine, mainly women and children.

First Ukrainian Vice Premier Konstyantyn Masyk stated that the main aim of the special security regime on the border is to prevent military activities from spreading into the territory of the republic.

Zero-Level Incident at Zaporozhye Nuclear Plant

LD2805153992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1505 GMT 28 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Vladimir Eremenko—TASS]

[Text] Zaporozhye, May 28 TASS—A zero-point incident, according to the Ines Scale, occurred late on Thursday [28 May] at the third reactor of the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant in Ukraine. The unit had to be shut down after a grub appeared in the system of periodic blowing of the steam generator. No violations of security norms were registered while plugging the reactor out. The radioactive background is normal around the plant.

At least five days will be necessary to repair the damage. The reactor is expected to be switched on June 1.

Byelarus

Armed Forces Reduced According to Agreements

OW2905105492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 29 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After completion of its three-day visit to Byelarus, a British group of assessment and information on the armed forces confirmed the correctness of the republic's data on the reduction of the armed forces and armaments. They stated that the process is going on in compliance with the international agreements. A group of the British experts visited Byelarus in the framework of the Vienna Agreement on the confidence building measures and cooperation in Europe.

Shushkevich Establishes Security Council

OW2805181292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 28 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of parliament Stanislav Shushkevich has started forming the Security Council [SC] he heads. Several members of the presidium of parliament, the prime-minister and the heads of key ministries are members by law. Victor Novilskiy, 43, became the first staff member of the SC office.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Mr. Novilskiy, a graduate of the Caspian naval school in Baku, served for 20 years in the Black Sea Fleet, second class captain. After retirement he was in charge of the military and mobilization aspects of clearing the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident.

Mr. Novilskiy told IF that at orders from Stanislav Sushkevich he is organizing the first session of the Security Council that should set its tasks for the initial period.

Bank Chairman Announces Introduction of Currency

OW2405160792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1446 GMT 24 May 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On May 25 Byelarus will begin circulation of its own currency, deputy chairman of the board of the republic's National Bank Aleksandr Sorokin announced in a special press conference in Minsk. The Byelarusian banknotes—rubels—will be used parallel with the Russian ruble. The exchange rate has been set at ten rubles per rubel.

So far the National Bank of Byelarus has organized issues of 10, 50, and 75 rubel banknotes. Mr. Sorokin said that during the initial stages people will receive half their wages in rubels. He stressed that the Central Bank of Russia had approved the introduction of the republic's new currency, in that it was incapable of providing Byelarus with the cash it needed.

Coupons Said Test of Currency Worthiness

OW2705214192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Byelarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich stated in Minsk Wednesday [27 May] that the circulation of Byelarusian coupons would show if the republic has grounds to introduce its national currency. In his opinion, unless the exchange rate between the coupon and the ruble falls, the future currency is likely to be stable.

Adviser on Government Confidence Referendum

OW2705185592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1747 GMT 27 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ivan Stepura, Byelarus parliament chairman's counsellor, is certain that the national referendum which is meant to survey the people's confidence in the republic's government and parliament will take place in due time. He maintains that the opposition leaders are strictly abiding by the conformable legal criteria and will act in full compliance with the provisions of the Republic's Law on Referendum. He also believes that the referendum campaign had collected the enough signatures to substantiate a bid for the referendum.

IF [INTERFAX] note: In compliance with the existing legislation, the Presidium of Byelarus Supreme Council resolved to bring this issue to the consideration of the Council's next session the opening day of which is to be announced yet.

"If the Supreme Council should voice its opposition to the referendum, it will only reveal its reluctance to lead Byelarus along the road of radical economic and political transformations; it would be tantamount to their defying the democratic norms," the parliament head's counsellor emphasized. Ivan Stepura expressed doubt in regards to the veracity of the allegations which have it that Stanislav Shushkevich intends to include a question of the introduction of a presidential office in the Republic among those brought to the forthcoming referendum. "For all I know," he said, "Stanislav Shushkevich views the future of our country as a parliamentary republic and has no plans whatsoever about adopting a presidential office".

In the meantime, Ivan Stepura had to confirm that there are plans to add several questions to the referendum ballot sheets. However, he failed to specify either their number or their wording. The chairman's counsellor suggested that one of them, proposed by the Chairman himself, will have to do with a possibility of ownership of land in Byelarus".

The returns of the referendum, Stanislav Shushkevich believes, will put an end to all kinds of political speculations by both rightist and leftist deputies, allegedly acting "on behalf of the people", Ivan Stepura stressed in summation.

Influx of Refugees From Conflict Regions Grow

LD2305162192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 23 May 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Viktor Kuklov]

[Text] Minsk, May 23 TASS—A growing influx of refugees from regions of inter-ethnic conflicts to the former Soviet republic—Byelarus has taken place lately. At present there are over 1,500 refugees registered in the republic, including 480 Armenians, 48 Azerbaijanis and 87 Russian-speaking families. There are also Byelarusian refugees—from the Baltic countries, Central Asia, Moldova and from the south of the Russian Federation, a spokesman for the State Committee for Labour and Social Protection of the Population told BELTA.

Local authorities seek to render feasible aid to refugees. But the possibilities for compensating material losses of those who had to leave their homes, are limited. The majority of them are not provided with dwellings. The situation is complicated by the absence of the all-republican programme of aid to refugees and special social structures that would deal with them. Byelarus is not a party to the international convention on protection of rights of refugees of 1951.

According to the State Committee for Labour and Social Protection of the Population, it is necessary to work out a programme of emergency measures for rendering aid to people who had to migrate. At present a draft law on forced migrants is under way which will be considered at the nearest session of the Byelarusian Supreme Soviet.

Parliament Leader Appeals For Investment

OW2805170192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1400 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Head of the Byelarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich stated that it is not so much humanitarian aid the republic needs, but rather modern know-how and large investments in various industries. He made this statement as he was receiving Germany's State-Secretary of the Finance Ministry Horst Keler who arrived in Minsk as a special envoy of Chancellor Helmut Kohl. According to sources in the Byelarusian foreign ministry, his arrival is connected with preparations for the G7's [Group of Seven] meeting in Munich which will concentrate on aid to the former Union republics.

Shushkevich To Attend Environment Conference

OW2205191692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1659 GMT 22 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the beginning of June, Chairman of the Byelarusian parliament Stanislav Shushkevich will spend a week in Brazil where he is expected to take part in a UN conference on environmental protection.

Byelarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has become a Corresponding Member of the International Engineering Academy (Economics). On Friday [22 May], in the government building, he was congratulated by his friends and colleagues.

Opposition Demands Trials for Communist Crimes

LD2905084392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1753 GMT 28 May 92

[By BELTA-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kryzhanovskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk, May 28 TASS—The opposition in the Byelarusian parliament and several Byelarusian democratic parties launched an appeal to "People—Victims of Communist Terror" and urged to convene a conference to prepare an international trial of Communist crimes against mankind.

The appeal, which was published by the Minsk-based SVOBODA newspaper on Thursday [28 May], says that over a dozen charges can be brought against communists and the list of their crimes can be extended.

The appeal emphasised that the would-be trial seeks not to take revenge and find new victims, but to put a legal end to distortion of history which is necessary for genuine repentance.

The appeal urges to make public names of Communists involved in atrocities against mankind and bring them to trial at the countries where they committed crimes, while rank-and-file Communists should not be held responsible for the crimes committed by the leadership of the CPSU and other Communist parties.

Moldova

Supreme Soviet Attacks Moldovan Government

LD2805171792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1541 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Tiraspol (Moldovan republic), 28 May—The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Dniester region issued a statement Wednesday [27 May] that, in particular, says: "The Moldovan leadership has recently been stirring up hysteria in connection with alleged aggression by Russia's 14th Army against Moldova. These statements look particularly hypocritical in light of Moldova's continuing aggression against the Dniester region and are an attempt to justify itself in the eyes of the world community."

"Sustained rocket, artillery, and mortar fire by Moldova from 10 to 18 May," the statement continues, "has led to numerous civilian casualties and destruction in Dubossary. It was this that forced women of the Dniester region to embark on illegal actions—to blockade armored vehicles of the 14th Army and to subsequently hand them over to guardsmen to defend Dubossary civilians. This measure was a natural self-defense reaction by the people in response to military operations and shelling by the Moldovan armed forces, which used arms and equipment of the 14th Army that were illegally nationalized. Some of the former officers of that army who went over to serve in the armed forces of the Moldovan Republic participate directly in commanding military operations against the Dniester Moldovan republic."

"As for alleged 'armed foreign intervention' by Russia's 14th Army, this," the statement stresses, "does not correspond to reality and is a deliberate fabrication aimed at causing anti-Russian feeling and justifying Romania's military presence in Moldova."

Lukyanov Fingered in Establishment of Dniester

OW2505174892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The investigator of the Prosecutor's office of Moldova Pavel Lutenko said that the former Soviet Parliament Speaker Anatoliy Lukyanov "played an important role in establishing the Trans-Dniester republic". The investigator came to this conclusion during his trip to Moscow to study some documents from Lukyanov's archive.

To prove the conclusion, Pavel Lutenko pointed out Lukyanov's resolution on the request sent by the Trans-Dniester President Igor Smirnov "On the necessity to set up a common law-enforcement bodies system in Trans-Dniester" of April 10 last year. It asked to dismantle the law-enforcement bodies in Trans-Dniester and set up new ones which would not be subordinate to Chisinau. Anatoliy Lukyanov ordered looking into those issues and resolving the basic ones.

Another resolution asked to work out options for the strategy of the Trans-Dniester republic's participation in the signing of the Union Treaty.

The Moldovan investigator says that the Prosecutor's office has some information on other Moscow officials' participation in the split in Moldova.

Defense Minister Criticizes Draft Evasion

LD2905062192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2146 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 29 May—Speaking on television on Thursday [28 May] evening Moldovan Defense Minister Ion Koshtash shamed citizens who sabotage conscription into the national army of the republic, which is under way in connection with the escalation of the conflict in the Dniester region.

According to him, a few years ago when young people were taken to an unjust war in Afghanistan, they did not come across such facts. In the conditions when the country is in danger, "moaning is shameful and a refusal to carry out military service is a crime," Ion Koshtash stressed. The defense minister also called servicemen to observe disciplin and subordination in the army and to obey chiefs' commands.

Parliament Rejects Gagauz Self-Determinaton

AU2305154492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1349 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 22/5/1992—Two standing commissions of Moldova's parliament—the Commission on Human Rights and National Relations and the Commission for Local Self-Administration and Local Economy—met in a joint session on Thursday, May 21, to debate the bill "On the Statute of the Gagauz Self-Administered Territory." MOLDOVA PRES reports. Those who took the floor to state their stand on the document opined that from a legal point of view the content of the bill was in contradiction with the constitution of the Republic of Moldova, with the provisions of the national and international law. The very title of the document runs counter to its content since it expresses the tendency of promoting the old idea regarding the self-determination of the Gagauz population within an autonomous state, which will imminently lead to the illegal federalization of the republic.

Stressing the unjustified character of the bill from an historic, social and economic point of view the participants in the meeting assessed the way of approaching the issue as unacceptable and decided to end the debates on the document.

The deputies examined another document titled "On the Settlement of the Question of Cultural Autonomy of the Gagauz Population and of the Bulgarians of Moldova" worked out by the Standing Commission on Human Rights and National Relations.

Government Accused of Destabilizing Situation

OW2505152792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1351 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of the Gagauz Republic, recently established in the south of Moldova, has accused Chisinau of making insistent steps to destablize the social and political situation in the Gagauz republic with the purpose of instigating bloodshed similar to that in the Dniester region. Such a statement was circulated on Monday [25 May] following the incident in Chadyr-Lunga on the night May 23.

As was reported earlier, in Chadyr-Lunga the local police seized a group of 11 armed people. According to the Gagauz parliament, during the operation one policeman and two members of the group were killed. One of the dead men had the identification card Captain of the Moldovan National Security Ministry Oleg Zogorodnyuk who, at all appearances, was the group's leader.

Chairman of the Chadyr-Lunga executive committee Bmitri Kroitoru said that among those detained was a senior lieutenant of the Moldovan National Security Ministry.

Romania-made sub-machine-guns, grenade-launchers and hand grenades were confiscated from the group members.

Social Democrats Call For Cabinet's Resignation

OW2705213492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1849 GMT 27 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Leaders of the Social Democratic Party of Moldova, SDPM, speaking at a news conference in Chisinau, called for a constituent assembly and a coalition government as a way of resolving the Trans-Dniester conflict. They said the cabinet must resign.

One of SDPM's co-chairmen, Anatol Tsaran, said the referendum law opened the road to resolving many of the republic's problems. In his words, the law was pulling the rug from under the feet of those who try to put up the fright of Moldova's unification with Romania among the residents on the left bank of the Dniester river.

Mr Tsaran said any crucial change in Moldova was subject to a referendum alone.

Russian Airborne Regiment To Redeploy in Jun

OW2505115192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1025 GMT 25 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's Defence Ministry has completed its inventory of the property, owned by a regiment of airborne troops of Russia, quartered at Chisinau. By information from the regiment's commander Alexey Lebed, the unit will be redeployed at Abakan, the Krasnoyarsk region. According to specified reports, the troops withdrawal will start tentatively on June 15th.

In keeping with the timetable, agreed with Russia's Defence Ministry and Moldova's authorities, a group of servicemen is to fly off to Abakan on May 25th to begin preparing the barracks for paratroopers from Chisinau.

PNC Calls For Moldova's Withdrawal From CIS

AU2505090292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0800 GMT 25 May 92

[Text] In a declaration sent to MOLDOVA PRES, the National Christian Party [PNC] mentions that it repeatedly warned the government and the parliament of the Republic of Moldova about the danger posed by the situation in the Dniester Region and calls or the urgent arming of the people with a view to giving a firm retort to the aggressors and traitors of the nation and the country. However, all the warnings of the party met with deaf ears and events led to a true war, says the declaration.

In order to save the homeland, the National Christian Party firmly demands the unconditional withdrawal of the Republic of Moldova from the CIS; the withdrawal of all units of the occupation troops from Moldova's territory; the severance of all contacts with the leaders of the self-proclaimed Dniestrian Republic; the withdrawal of the police forces from the battlefield and the reestablishment of their normal functions, that is to maintain public order; and mobilization for battle of the regular military forces, headed by officers and generals who are capable of guiding the actions of soldiers and who are devoted to the cause of the nation's salvation.

Permanent Representative to UN Appointed

LD2805163192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Chisinau, May 28 TASS—Chairman of Moldova's parliamentary committee on legal issues Tudor Pantsyru has been appointed Moldovan permanent representative with the United Nations.

Pantsyru, born in 1951, is a lawyer by education.

Kazakhstan

President Nazarbayev Outlines Economic Program

OW2205115692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0647 GMT 22 May 92

["Abridged" version of economic section of President Nazarbayev's article "The Strategy of Kazakhstan's Formation and Development as a Sovereign State"; first two grafs introductory; from the "Nation and Society" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan's Republican press has circulated President Nursultan Nazarbayev's extensive analytical article titled "The Strategy of Kazakhstan's Formation and Development as a Sovereign State." The Republic's public opinion regards this Article as the President's program of the country's economic and political development. With the view of a considerable size of this article, IF's [INTERFAX] release carries it as an abridged variant of its crucial part- the economy.

In an interview to IF's Vyacheslav Terekhov, Kazakhstan's President had this to say motivating the purpose of his Program: "The people need to clearly see their our objectives. I began working on the strategic concept right after Kazakhstan had proclaimed its independence. Naturally, the work on this program was carried out with the participation of the economists from this country, Moscow, as well as from the United States, Turkey, and Pakistan. Kazakhstan's public need to be aware of our internal and external polical goals at different stages of our development. I hope that following its publication, this program will be widely discussed in the Republic, and it will, undoubtedly, provoke various responses—both positive, and, probably, critical. After we analyze all of them, we will be able to come up with a positively all-republican strategy of our future development".

The events which dramatically changed the image of the former Soviet Union now belong to posterity. The young sovereign state of Kazakhstan which has just exercised its right to self-determination, our people and our economy are heading for new transformations.

In following this course, we need to be upright in our appraisal of the existing realities, refraining from any exulted ventures, however alluring, equipping ourselves with collected and balanced practicism, and taking into account the die-hard rudiments of the former totalitarian regime which still manifest themselves in our conscience and deeds, so long as they cannot be cast off just by the snap of the fingers, however we aspire for it.

What are our day's strategic objectives? In the sphere of economy, they are, as follows,

1. the development of our young sovereign state heading for a strong presidential republic;

2. the introduction of a multi-party system, contributing to further development of democratic reforms in our society, producing new political leader;

3. general stability, which ought to be regarded both as our primary political objective and a precondition for a successful realization of our economic reforms, especially during the transitional period;

4. with a consideration of the Kazakhstan's geopolitical self- determination, its participation in multilateral and multifarious military, political, and economic alliances, insuring the country's sovereignty and security;

5. the build-up of Kazakhstan's political prestige in the world community through its strict adherence to the principles of democratic freedoms and human rights, and its search for rewarding place in world economy;

6. utilization of Kazakhstan's favorable geopolitical situation with a view to joining the world economic system. Situated between Europe and Asia, Kazakhstan has traditionally been regarded as an arena for bustling trade and economic ties. Today, it has every opportunity to assume a strategically important role of a nexus between Europe, the Central-Asian part of the former Soviet Union, the rapidly developing Asian-Pacific Region, and the southern part of the Asian continent.

In the sphere of economy, we have outlined the following five objectives:

1. the formation of a social-oriented market economy based on the principles of competition, combining and interacting the main forms of ownership (private and state owned enterprises), each being vested with a function of its own in the general system of economic and social relations;

2. provision of legal and other conditions for realizing the principle of man's economic self-determination.

The share of state property will be constantly decreasing, gradually dropping to and stablizing at the level of 30-40 per cent. This process is preconditioned by the fact that the core of our economy constitutes the divisions based on our rich natural resources which comprise our Republic's exclusive property.

We also envisage that at every stage of our movement toward social market economy, state regulation will still need to be preserved as an important factor. The influence which Kazakhstan's government continues to impart to economy, shaping it as a rational structure, will gradual assume a macro-economic character. Its future decisions will be based on market fluctuations and it will be closely associated with the currency regulation as well as state policies as regards taxation, custom duties, state budget, currency exchange rate, banking interest, export-import quotas and licenses.

After the Republic overcomes the economic crisis and its economy becomes stable, we will have to come to grips with the national currency issue providing, at first, its internal and then external convertibility. This process will be conducted in a civilized manner, our state strictly adhering to its agreements with the Ruble-zone countries.

Our common currency—the ruble—undoubtedly remains critically important in the transitional period, and we continue to support it. Nonetheless, we have to admit that it restricts Kazakhstan's economic independence, posing a threat to our economic security. Even today, we are all witness to the fact the Russia is slackening its control over the monetary system.

We do not exclude a possibility of introducing our own currency even before we manage to stabilize our economy, conceding the behavior of the Ruble-zone countries remains highly unpredictable. They often ignore the interests of their partners. We would also need to modernize our banking system, set up and regulate our security exchanges;

3. securing our positions at the world markets or sharing them with some other countries, capitalizing on Kazakhstan's natural resources, as well as rebuilding its economy by way of insuring a predominant development of the processing and science intensified branches, export and import-substitute production facilities with the use of up-to-date foreign and domestic technology and know-how;

4. stocking of our consumer market. We view this as a prerequisite for an increase of labor efficiency and improvement of living standards of every Kazakh family. These measures in addition to the atmosphere of social stability will motivate every worker and employee to be interested in the results of his efforts. We cannot anticipate their genuine interest in productive labor unless we fill our market with quality consumer goods. This is equally imperative for overcoming the inflation and budget deficit;

5. the attraction of foreign investments and their efficient utilization for the development of Kazakhstan. In performing our transition to the market economy, we simultaneously should not only overcome the economic crisis, but also perform a structural reconstruction of our economy, as well as conversion of our defense capabilities.

In the sphere of social development, we single out the following two objectives:

1. formation of a society which would provide adequate well-being for all of its members, be it children or young people, able-bodied people of disabled and aged population;

2. providing every entrepreneur with opportunities to apply his or her efforts in any area of production in order that the most capable, diligent and enterprising persons could attain as high social status as they deserve.

Specifically, in the next three years we will have to normalize our consumer market. In the next 7-10 years we will make major progress in the direction of transforming our raw-material oriented economy and develop the infrastructure. The subsequent 5-7 years will upgrade Kazakhstan to the station of a new industrialized country. This may be viewed as a social contract between the power and the people in terms of time, provided both parties strictly adhere to their commitments in regards to its realization.

The society Kazakhstan is dedicated to build will be neither liberal or peoples' capitalism nor genuine, modernized socialism. It will just be a normal democratic society with multi-structured market economy.

STRATEGY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The principal question on the agenda is how to begin the battle with the crisis, how to check the economic decline, and initiate its a gradual rise. Undoubtedly, foreign investments indeed could be highly instrumental. The practical experience of the "perestroyka" years, however, proves that it would be wrong to place serious reliance on the external factor. The wide-scale foreign credit aid, as a rule, does not go beyond promises. Naturally, it is not without a good reason that foreign investors have been so restraint [as received] (political instability, continuing international conflicts, vague situation as regards the center of gravity - they found it hard to decide whether to deal with the weakened center or with the consolidated republics, etc). The long continuing uncertainty regarding the scope and terms of foreign credits impedes our initiative in the framework of our own position, preventing us from making bold and resolute decisions.

In this situation, we cannot mark time any longer. There seems to be only one way out: first and foremost, we should bank on ourselves and start overcoming the crisis relying on our own resources. The primary emphasis should be made on the domestic industrialists and investors, while aid should be rendered to all those who are involved in production, resource saving, and investments.

If we fail to do it, we will have to face an economic catastrophe, and all the republics of the former Soviet Union would be sentenced to playing a humiliating role of economic colonies of the developed countries. It, certainly, is an unpleasant conclusion, yet it reflects the actual situation in the country.

Naturally, if some of the CIS politicians could brush aside their political ambitions and stop playing their fruitless games, if only all of them could join their efforts, it would be so much easier for all of us to get out of this mess. We, however, still continue to jealously wallow in our former offenses, however injust, associated with the disintegrating totalitarian center, as a result of which we only further aggravate the disintegration processes. This does not give credit to any of us.

Thus we come to the first principal conclusion with strategic consequences: the current crisis can be overcome, and national economy restored only at the expense of our own resources, which are sufficient for it. Our history knows of many precedents when we managed to find a way out of the situations by far more complicated than ours.

In the sphere of material production, Kazakhstan has the following six priorities:

1. stocking of our market with food products and consumer goods;

2. increase of the construction engineering efforts, first and foremost, in the area of house construction;

3. transformation of non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy aimed at overcoming the raw-material orientation of our economy;

4. development of science-intensified industries, machine- building, diversification and, whenever necessary, conversion of defense enterprises;

5. adoption of ecologically pure technologies and know-hows;

6. formation of modern infrastructure (transportation, communication, power production, tourism, hotels).

The development and concurrent radical reformation of our agricultural industry along with measures aimed at stocking our market with consumer goods, however, will always be spearheading all of our strategic priorities.

In order to resolve this problem, the government has initiated the development of a national program aimed at reforming the country's small-size agricultural production capabilities. In compliance with this program, about 1100-1200 affiliated branches of urban industry, as well as small enterprises relying on compact equipment will be built in the Kazakhstan's agricultural areas. This will reduce losses of agricultural products, and encourage the production of high-quality finished goods in the country, deploy a system of prestigious jobs for young people.

The house-building program which is presently in the process of compilation will also be accomplished simultaneously.

It would be important to note a characteristic peculiarity: both programs will be supervised by the banks financing them, as is normally practiced in the developed countries. To attain these goals we will mobilize the resources of the stockholders represented by the enterprises, the resource of local administrations and private citizens.

In relying on the US experience in this area, all the above national programs should be effected in the context of special legal acts adopted by Kazakhstan's Government.

Taking into account the megatendencies in the area of science, new technologies and control systems, as well as the integration of world economic ties, the terms for Kazakhstan's transition to a new state could be compressed into 15-20 years.

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT

The country cannot successfully advance along the tracks of the market economy if it does not have an exact time-table envisaging the phases of its own and its concomitant specific tasks. I view these stages as follows:

Stage One. It embraces the years 1992-1995, and it should be characterized by the following process of macroeconomic stabilization: active dissolution of state ownership, privatization of property, stocking the consumer market with goods. At that time, one way or another, property ownership at all the state-owned enterprises should be subject to reform with the exception of those which are strategically important or constitute national security. In the meantime, the privatization of all the small- and medium-sized enterprises in various branches of economy should be accomplished by the middle of 1994. Privatization of the servicing sphere and the housing sector should be finished by the end of 1993.

All of these measures in combination with active anti-monopoly policy will contribute to strengthening the private sector and enhancing the growth of private entrepreneurs. It would also be necessary to resort to local concessional transition of property, long-term leasing, including purchase of land by foreign investors for the construction of advanced technological projects.

Alongside with that, the government will have to work out a program of attracting and utilizing foreign investments, importing foreign technologies and applying them in line with the adopted strategy and priorities. In the area of state crediting, this program provides balanced and economically sound opportunities for attracting foreign investments into currency-remunerative projects, precludes the risk of a dangerously inflated national debt, and contributes to purposefully forming the state gold and currency assets. The country is yet to introduce a universally adopted insurance system protecting the capital investments made by Kazakh and foreign entrepreneurs. NotewortEly, such meawres will insure timely reimbursement of credits, therefore, help Kazakhstan gain the reputation of a reliable business partner.

Stage Two (1996-2005). The country continues to gradually overcome the raw-material orientation of its national economy. Simultaneously, a new impetus will be given to accelerate the development of the transportation network, telecommunications, as well as to promote the development of trade and currency markets, along with the other markets, such as those of capital, labor resources, securities, intellectual property, etc.

National priority will be given to the projects of the Trans- Asian railroad construction which will connect the Bosporus and the Pacific, as well as to the construction of an up-to-date international cargo-and-passenger airport near Alma-Ata. This will facilitate the country's integration into world economy, turning it into an original "bridge" between East and West, between Europe and the Asian-Pacfic region, and therefore enabling it to realize its geopolitical functions.

Stage Two is expected to produce the following motive forces and incentives for intensifying the country's economic development:

1. full-fledged market mechanisms;

2. genuine freedom for all material goods producers

3. rational use of natural resources;

4. fast-going process of the country's mastering sophisticated technologies and gaining positions in world economy;

5. formation of a corps of competent personnel in the area of domestic and international business.

Stage Three which is expected to last 5-7 years more will be characterized by an accelerated rate of development of the open-type economy, the attainment on this basis of the strategic objectives envisaged for the transitional period, strengthening of Kazakhstan's positions in world economy, and its joining the ranks of the world's new industrial countries.

Kyrgyztan

President Akayev Interviewed on 'Live Dialogue'

LD2505012392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1125 GMT 24 May 92

["Live Dialogue" phone-in program with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev and journalist Kalbek Estebesov in Bishkek and Ostankino TV Commentator Andrey Georgiyevich Skryabin and MOSCOW NEWS Commentator Lyudmila Olegovna Telen in the Moscow studio—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Skryabin] First, I must say that our telephones were working earlier so we have a whole series of questions. Along with questions about economics, the Army, and the sociopolitical situation in Kyrgyzstan, I think just as many had to do with the problems of the CIS. Therefore, Mr. President, I would like to start with a question which is on everyone's mind today: We would like to hear your assessment of the latest agreements reached at the Tashkent meeting.

[Akayev] [passage omitted] On the subject of your question, Andrey Georgiyevich, I think the Tashkent meeting of the CIS, of the CIS heads of state, made the latest small contribution to strengthening the CIS and deepening economic, political, and humanitarian cooperation.

I was not present at the Tashkent meeting because I was on an official visit, heading a state delegation from Kyrgyzstan to the PRC. At the same time, however, I was fully informed of the agenda of the Tashkent meeting. I was constantly in contact with Bishkek on how the discussion of the issues was progressing and we gave Vice President Kulov full authority. On our behalf he signed the documents at the Tashkent meeting. I share the view of those who believe that the Tashkent meeting was productive and yielded further results.

[Telen] Mr. President, I recall that you have always advocated a confederation, even as early as the Novo-Ogarevo process, a confederation on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The situation has now changed, but do you still believe that confederative relations are possible on the territory of the former Union? Or do you believe that the CIS will be used as it is currently used, mainly as a mechanism for eliminating contradictions which arise, including military ones, between the republics?

[Akayev] Lyudmila Olegovna, I would like to clarify this. At one time I believed that there was a time for us when we perhaps might have endorsed such a union, which would have encompassed both federative and confederative principles as well as the elements of a commonwealth. But we lost the opportunity, I think that was in about 1988-1989. I then came to the conclusion that it was essential for us—I am convinced of this today—that we have to create a single economic, political, military, and strategic area on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

But how do I see the future of our Commonwealth? I would like to note first that I think there is an objective necessity for this Commonwealth. I think it goes far deeper than the functions you defined for our Commonwealth, i.e. resolving regional problems and conflicts and other matters. I have always believed that the main task of our Commonwealth is not to allow the unified civil society which existed on the territory of the former Soviet Union to fall apart. I have always felt that we need to keep in mind the example of the British commonwealth. The British Empire broke up—I want to use this as an example. The Empire broke up as a kind of state. But there, of course, the civil society has been preserved. They have preserved the institutions of a civil society. Look at Australia and New Zealand. [passage omitted]

For instance, I look with envy on the way Europe—the countries of western Europe—are strengthening their EEC and building their pan-European home. It seems to me that we too should follow that path, strengthen our Commonwealth and build our single home, as one could call it. But I would also like to stress that there are many people who fall into the mistake of seeing the future of our Commonwealth, of seeing this home of ours, as a state, of seeing it in the form of a state. As Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin quite rightly said in Tashkent, there can be no return to that.

As far as creating a unified civil society is concerned, I think that there is a path to be opened up and that this is extremely necessary for us. I want to take a bit of time for this—it seems to me that this is the most important topic of all—and say that there are many people today who have not absorbed the meaning of the process which is taking place. Not only has the empire collapsed; not only have sovereign and independent republics and states been established. In my opinion, what we are dealing with is a far more important phenomenon. This is probably the greatest political, social, and economic cataclysm of the 20th century. I would compare this process in figurative terms with the process by which a tsunami moves in the ocean. [passage omitted]

I think that we need to preserve a unified civil society and to create institutions. This is key for the prospects for our Commonwealth.

[Telen] [passage omitted] What can we do—what can the presidents of states do—today to ensure that blood is not shed on the borders of the former Soviet republics? Can anything be done or should it be considered to be natural, inevitable, or a process or period through which and with which we must endure?

[Akayev] [passage omitted] Wide-scale military actions are under way. I think one has to relate to this as an objective phenomenon which was to be expected. It was to be expected. But this does not excuse our passivity, perhaps sometimes our inactivity, as well. After all, if we had united at the right time, taken effective and competent measures, and appealed somehow to the world community, it is possible that much could have been averted through common efforts. Could have been.

But I believe that much can be done today to make the fallout of these conflicts and military actions less tragic and catastrophic. This is being done. Recently actions by Russia, the Russian Government, have become more energetic to prevent a further escalation of military action on the Armenian-Azerbaijani front, in Moldova, and in other regions. I salute this. I believe that all the presidents of the Republics and countries of the CIS and all the peoples must somehow unite around such initiatives, which are aimed at putting an end to these conflicts, these wars. No one will win from these wars, these conflicts. The sooner we can extinguish the fires which are burning today in many regions of the CIS, the former Soviet Union, the better it will be for everyone, for the whole world. This will help us to escape not just the political crisis but the economic crisis as well. [passage omitted]

[Estebesov] Does the leadership, the government of the Republic, have foreign priorities, since Kyrgyzstan has embarked on a solo voyage into the international sphere? What are the emphases for our Republic in this sphere? Along what lines is integration proceeding? On what coast will the ship flying our national flag arrive first—the Turkish or the Chinese? Or are there other harbors as well? [passage omitted]

[Akayev] Today we are placing great hope on moving out of the present critical situation into new economic, political, and humanitarian links with the outside world and with all the countries of the world with whom mutual interests have been established and with whom we basically preach the same ideals and values. I have to say that Kyrgyzstan is demonstrating great activity. We have now established friendly—I would say good—relations of friendship and cooperation in the West and in the East, including with the United States of America, Turkey, the PRC, Germany, and many other countries. All the countries of the CIS are today basically opening their doors and hearts to neighbors near and far in the hope that economic cooperation and perhaps an influx of investment and technology will allow us to reconstruct our economy, to set up a market economy infrastructure, and to get out of our critical state more rapidly. [passage omitted]

I therefore consider our main aim to be to show the world our Republic, our Kyrgyzstan. The Russians have the fine tradition of showing off a bride [smotriny]. When the bride is ready to be given away, they organize a showing of the bride so the young man can get to know her and find out her good points, her best qualities. I think that is just what the CIS countries are doing now.

As far as priorities are concerned, I will say this: Today it would be premature to talk about priorities in our new links. Time will tell with whom we shall develop cooperation on a mutually beneficial and equal basis, with whom cooperation will actually be implemented to bear fruit, and with whom we will simply have good relations.

I would just like to stress one thing. Although we in Kyrgyzstan are establishing new ties, although we are establishing cooperation with new countries in the world, we still give priority to our ties, friendship, and cooperation with the countries of the CIS, and above all with Russia. I would like to firmly stress that no matter what new ties we establish in the West and East, no matter how great our urge to merge into the eastern, western, or worldwide economic community, our ties with Russia and our friendship and cooperation with the Russian people will always be special, and we will give this priority. We are obliged to do so by the tradition of 200 years of friendship and cooperation between the Kyrgyz and Russian peoples.

Of course, there is also the strengthening of friendship and cooperation with our near neighbors, the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan. I am very glad that we have a mutual understanding and the we are strengthening our friendship and cooperation with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan. I think those are the priorities I would designate.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much, Mr. President, thank you. Before giving Lyudmila the floor—she wanted to ask a few questions—could I make a request, Mr. President? We have about 12 minutes left and you can see how many questions we have received from our TV viewers. They are asking us to be brief. Lyudmila, your question, please.

[Telen] Mr. President, I would like to ask you to speak about the internal situation in Kyrgyzstan. According to some experts' estimations—with which you probably would not agree—you have to work without a closely united team of like-minded people. But you have enough enemies. On the one side, you are criticized by some representatives of national movements; on the other side, former party nomenclature criticize you. As far as we know today, former party apparatchiks are rather actively involved in Kyrgyzstan's political life. The latest elections to the parliament demonstrated this. Could you please discuss how dangerous the current situation in the upper crust of Kyrgyzstan is—I mean for the democratic course you are conducting. How stable do you think it is?

[Akayev] I think that this situation is quite normal for today. I regard it as the only objective possibility. Yes, certainly, there is opposition at present and it is very strong. It is versatile, but I think that this is a very good situation and a very good element. For example, I feel like I am in my element. By nature, I like everything to be born in struggle and in arguments; therefore I regard the situation as normal and think that we have every chance of success at continuing the democratic course that the democratic Republic of Kyrgyzstan has accepted.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Mr. President, in my hands I have a lot of questions on the nationalities issue and the protection of rights of national minorities who live on Kyrgyz territory. [passage omitted]

The question is as follows: Esteemed President Akayev, do you think that the best option for the Russians, including my children, is to return to Russia? Can you guarantee that there will be no discrimination against the Russian population in Kyrgyzstan? This from Martynenko: There is currently a large exodus of the Russian-speaking population from the Republic under way. Many are going reluctantly. Can the president give public guarantees to stop the stream of refugees? How do Akayev's statements about democracy and interethnic accord in the Republic match up with the mass exodus of the Russian-speaking population from the Republic, due to discrimination by the Kyrgyz people? And so on and so forth; some of the questions are very sharp.

[Telen] Mr. President, if possible, I would also like to ask you to speak about the destiny of the bill on national minorities. Has it been adopted or has it just passed the first reading? What is the main thrust of this law?

[Akayev] You have touched upon a very difficult issue, probably the most difficult issue, the most difficult problem facing us today. From the first days of my Presidency I have believed—and I still do—that our most important task, our top priority, is to consolidate civil peace and interethnic harmony. Without this we cannot carry out any reform, not economic, spiritual or any other kind. Therefore we are doing a great deal to achieve this.

But emigration from the Republic—of the Russian-speaking population in particular—is a fact. The citizens of Kyrgyzstan are saddened and alarmed by this, I have to say. I personally am extremely worried about this. After all, the Slavs have their niche, a worthy niche, among the peoples of Kyrgyzstan. It is difficult for me to imagine our economy, our science, our culture, and life in general in independent Kyrgyzstan without the Slavs, without the Russians, Ukrainians, and Byelarusians.

We are doing our utmost to remove the worries of the ethnic minorities. In fact, I have taken a number of decisive steps, not just in words but in deeds, to accomplish this. I can only say that there is no Russophobia in Kyrgyzstan. I can state this confidently. It has never existed. It does not exist now and will not in the future. There is no deliberate discrimination against the Russian-speaking population.

Of course, there is friction at a common level, as there is everywhere. It does cause some alarm for the people. Of course it causes people to worry about the future. But I would like to remind you that at that level we can find many shining examples of friendship, cooperation, and kindness; in a word, of everything that is good and brings people together rather than pushing them apart.

I think that today, during these difficult times, we must rise above the contradictions that arise at the level of everyday life and not give in to these emotions. We need mutual understanding and mutual tolerance. It seems to me that that is the only way we can overcome this difficult stage of transition. I am sure that the people of Kyrgyzstan will not allow this niche—especially such a huge niche as the Slavs occupy—to be empty.

With this goal in mind I have taken a number of initiatives so that at the legal and legislative level we can consolidate the rights and interests of the ethnic minorities. I personally took the initiative of introducing a bill on protecting the rights and interests of the ethnic minorities in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. That bill is being studied by the standing commissions of the republic's Supreme Soviet. I believe in the wisdom of our people's deputies, I believe in our Supreme Soviet, and I am confident that it will be passed. Perhaps it will be given a first reading—we hope it will—at the coming spring session of the Supreme Soviet. I believe it will happen this year.

I consider this to be most necessary if we are to create interethnic harmony and social and political stability in the Republic. Then together, having united and consolidated ourselves, we will find it easier to overcome all the difficulties and all the hardships that face us today.

[Telen] Mr. President, a request for clarification: There is a great deal of alarm in the phone calls from inhabitants of Kyrgyzstan regarding agrarian reform. Russian speakers—not only Russians, but nonnative inhabitants of Kyrgyzstan—say they are worried and that there is a certain amount of discrimination in redistributing the land. Is that really so?

[Akayev] Lyudmila Olegovna, I must say that this worry exists, but there are no reasons why it should. When the Supreme Soviet was adopting the law—the land code and the law on land reform—in Kyrgyzstan last year, I specifically vetoed a regulation in the law which could have been of a discriminatory nature against Kyrgyzstan's nonindigenous population. The Supreme Soviet and republican people's deputies showed the very wisdom I was just talking about. Even though it took three tries, they backed my veto and this discriminatory norm was eliminated.

As for the issues of land reform, there are no alarming norms there today. Naturally, there are some deviations at the local level. There are complaints about local authorities and local administrations, saying that they are carrying out the land reform in an unjust fashion. It is not only minority representatives coming to me; I get many more Kyrgyz people. One must fight this.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[Akayev] But Lyudmila Olegovna, there are no fundamentally discriminatory regulations against national minorities.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Mr. President. I have questions here on the Army. Unfortunately, we only have one-and-a-half minutes left. Nevertheless, the question is as follows: Very generally, what is the fate of the Army stationed on Kyrgyz territory today?

[Akayev] Andrey Georgiyevich, we are currently holding discussions with Russia on the best way of deciding the fate of the Army stationed on Kyrgyz territory. I would like to say just one thing: I have never changed my position on the Army. My position has always been constructive and kind. I have always thought that two things which belonged to our former Soviet empire ought to be preserved: first, the Army and second, the great feeling of solidarity and collectivism which we used to have. There is no way we can lose that. When I was saying today that we need to preserve a single civil society, I meant first and foremost that we ought to preserve this feeling of collectivism, this feeling of solidarity. [passage omitted]

Possibility of Army's Formation Considered

OW1505155392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with "IF" [INTERFAX] the Chairman of the Kyrgyz State Committee on Defense Dzhanybek Umetaliyev said about a possibility of creation an army by Kyrgyzstan. [sentence as received] But it needs a corresponding political decision, he underlined. It must be adopted immediately after the CIS summit in Tashkent.

The republic changed its position being against the creation of its own army under the influence, in particular, of Russia and Kazakhstan, who decided to form their own Armed Forces.

According to the State Adviser, the recent proposals of the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the possibility of creation of a regional defense union with the participation of Russia, Kyrgystan, and Kazakhstan, are aimed at the establishing of partnership relations of cooperation between them on the principles of noninterference into each other affairs.

Umetaliyev reported that the heads of the three defense bodies of these republics must have a talk at the Tashkent meeting. If a final understanding between them is reached, which according to Umetaliyev was present up to the last moment, then the corresponding documents will be actually signed.

Turkmenistan

Rationale for Joint Army With Russia Viewed

MK2705150592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 92 p 3

[Igor Zhukov report under the "Turkmenia" rubric: "Russia and Turkmenistan Will Have One Army For the Two of Them"]

[Text] Preferring to solve problems as they arise, the Turkmen leadership has embarked on military development. While demonstrating the distinctiveness and individuality of his policies, President Niyazov has not broken his rules here either. After summoning the commanders of units and subunits stationed in Turkmenia, he announced that a Turkmen-Russian Treaty "On Mutual Defense and the Status of Troop Formations on Turkmenistan Territory" has been drafted and is to be signed in early June. The bilateral agreement makes provision for all the republic's units and subunits to be given the special status of joint troops of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan under the joint jurisdiction of both sides and joint command, subordinate to the presidents of Turkmenia and Russia. The treaty envisages shared participation in financing and providing the joint troops with material and technical supplies and stipulates how many plots of land Turkmenistan is to provide for troop formations free of charge, what communal services, including electricity, gas, and water, it is to contribute, what proportion of the republic's land, air, and water it is to provide, and what special provisions it is to give to all military formations and members of servicemen's families. Subunits will be manned by citizens of Turkmenistan and Russia. It is envisaged that Russian members of the joint forces, as well as members of their families, will retain their own citizenship, but will have the same rights as Turkmen citizens. Members of the joint forces' troop formations are obliged not to intervene in Turkmenia's internal affairs, to observe its Constitution and other laws, and respect local traditions and customs. The agreement confirms the sides' desire to cut the numbers of the joint forces to limits "that guarantee the preservation of military security" and defines the parties' property rights. Thus, hardware in the troops possession when the treaty is signed is to be transferred to Turkmenia when it is no longer being used. Property acquired with Russian money will remain Russia's property when it is no longer being used. The five- year treaty contains special articles on mutual security. They interpret an attack on one party as aggression against both parties to the agreement and compel each party to refrain from actions against the other party and not to allow their own territory to be used to prepare hostilities against their partner.

The idea of a joint Turkmen-Russian army emerged in Ashgabat due to pressure of events, so to speak. The breakup of the Turkestan Military District, which began with Uzbekistan's announcement that it was creating its own army, prompted the Turkmen leadership to actively seek a way out. That seemed to have been found at the meeting of the heads of the Asian republics in Bishkek. There Saparmurad Niyazov announced his intention of forming a separate 52d Army from all the units stationed in the republic, those under the direct jurisdiction of the Turkestan Military District staff among others, and of including this army in the CIS general-purpose forces. The latter's existence became problematic following the CIS leaders' meeting in Tashkent which failed to resolve the main issues of the funding and upkeep of the troops and also following Kazakh President Nazarbayev's announcement that he is going to set up Kazakh armed forces. In view of these events, Turkmenistan lost faith once and for all in the effectiveness of collective agreements and started putting pressure on Russia in Tashkent. During conversations with Yeltsin and Burbulis Niyazov insisted on stepping up the bilateral treaty process on army problems and preparing an agreement with emphasis on Russian funding and provision of material and technical supplies for the troops.

However, Turkmenia had another option up its sleeve. Following its neighbors' example, it could have said that it was transferring all troops stationed on its territory from Kushka to the Caspian to its own jurisdiction. Officials' comments following the meeting in Tashkent gave preference to this option. However, creating their own army proved a highly complex task, although Turkmenia's Defense Ministry thought differently at first. Having received a full list of troop units and subunits this department's leaders, who were until recently responsible for military commissariats, DOSAAF, and civil defense, began their selection process on the principle of "reasonable sufficiency." The untenability of this approach to military development soon became apparent. While, for instance, keeping one air regiment out of a whole air division for the Turkmen Armed Forces, the ministry's top officials discovered in amazement that 32 warplanes are just a heap of metal without the division's meteorological, navigation, and engineering services and technical backup subunits. During the Turkmen Defense Ministry's preliminary consultations with the Army command it became obvious that a military doctrine and a clear knowledge of the tasks that the army should be geared to perform are essential in order for the republic to form its own armed forces. Furthermore, it became clear that a national army would need national cadres. Toward the end of May 1992 more than 90 percent of the privates and NCO's in the troops stationed in Turkmenia were Turkmens. You would have thought that this kind of ethnic uniformity would only be conducive to the formation of a national army. But reality is a long way from cloud-cuckoo-land. Intertribal conflicts are still a major destabilizing factor in intra-Army life. Fights between men from northern and western Turkmenistan and members of the central and eastern Turkmen tribes are becoming extremely widespread in military units and causing desertion. According to official figures, more than 2,000 men have deserted. Even Islamic clergymen summoned to subunits are sometimes incapable of putting an end to the enmity. Where possible officers alone are tackling this at the moment, but today the overwhelming majority of commanding officers serving in Turkmenistan are Russian speakers: Some 70 percent are from Russia, 20 percent from Ukraine, and 10 percent from other areas of the former USSR. The extreme conditions of service, unsettled domestic life, lack of social security,and poor wages (an army general earns less than a local militia captain) do not promote a desire among officers to live and work in the republic. They also took a negative view of the Turkmen Government's recent decisions banning the sale of privatized housing, stating the impossibility of having dual citizenship, and excluding from the draft constitution articles on the Russian language as the means of interethnic communication. Officers' assemblies last week described all this as a breach of servicemen's interests and rights. The upshot of the discussion of the accumulated problems was that letters and cables were sent to Niyazov and Yeltsin refusing to serve in the Turkmen National Army if it is set up and asking for troops to be transferred to Russian jurisdiction. In this situation the option of a joint Turkmen-Russian army proposed by the Turkmen president was a fitting one. However this compromise too was by no means to everyone's liking. Having learned from the bitter experience of army strife, officers took a skeptic view of the idea of dual subordination to the Russian and Turkmen Defense Ministries and swearing loyalty to two states at once. Many were put on their guard by the fact that the bilateral treaty on joint forces was prepared without their representatives taking part and the treaty itself threatens to come like a bolt from the blue once it is signed and will not be changed. In view of these factors, officers from the Mary Garrison said in an interview with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent that they would continue to form coordinating units and subunits with special powers to supervise the signing of the joint forces treaty and to decide all matters pertaining to its implementation. The latter can hardly be described as Turkmenia's and Russia's affair since the bilateral defensive treaty effectively envisages breaking up the 12th Air Defense Army and the 73d Air Army, which are part of the CIS strategic troops, and regional neighbors will hardly be unconcerned about this process.

Armenia

President Returns From Visit to Egypt

NC2805210192 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today concluded his visit to Egypt where he held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the Middle East, the CIS, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, and bilateral matters.

An agreement on bilateral economic, trade, scientific, and cultural cooperation was signed during the visit.

Ter-Petrosyan returned to Yerevan today.

UN Security Council Delegation Visits

OW2805173792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the UN Security Council under the special envoy of the UN Secretary General, Francisco Vendrell, has moved from Baku to Yerevan, where, later in the day, it had talks with the Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian, President's national security adviser Ashot Manuchiaryan and political adviser Zhirayr Liparityan.

Vendrell told newsmen that since he was not an expert, he could neither deny nor confirm Azerbaijan's statements that Armenians used chemical weapons in shelling Nakhichevan. He dismissed reports by a number of mass media that in the course of the delegation's tour of Nagorno-Karabakh the Armenians did not let it visit Shusha. He said the planned trip to Shusha from Stepanakert was canceled due to the shortage of time.

Special Mission Ends

LD2805205392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan May 28 TASS—The United Nations special mission that was touring the Transcaucasia on instruction of the Security Council visited Armenia on Thursday [28 May]. The purpose of the commission's tour was to collect information about the situation in the Transcaucasia and suggest possible ways of its political settlement. Spending four days in Azerbaijan and several hours in Stepanakert, U.N. envoys resumed in Yerevan the conversations with Armenian leaders that had begun several days ago. Nothing is reported about the contents of the conversations that were held in camera. ITAR-TASS learned from the state protocol department of the Armenian Foreign Ministry that on Thursday afternoon members of the mission made a trip to villages in Armenia's Ararat District bordering with Azerbaijan.

The United Nations mission left Armenia on Thursday evening.

Border Guard Protests Airspace Violation

OW2805222592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources in the Transcaucasia military district say that a light sports plane intruded into Armenian airspace at 12:30 on Thursday. The plane crossed the border at an altitude of 500 meters 35 kilometers southwest of the town of Giumri. The plane flew about 70 kilometers along the border to return to Turkey in the area of the Armenian city of Oktembrian at 12:55. The border guard commissars have lodged a protest with Turkey over the violation of the border.

'Fabricated Reports' About Attacks Noted

NC2805200592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] In contrast to the relative calm prevailing along the Armenian-Nakhichevan border, the shelling of settlements on the republic's northeastern and eastern borders is continuing nonstop. A resident of (Sari) in Idzhevanskiy Rayon was killed during this morning's shelling. The enemy also used Grad rockets and artillery to shell (Gazashen), Aygehovid, Movses, and Karmiragpyur in Tavushskiy Rayon, and Berd Rayon center. The shelling caused substantial destruction.

Kornidzor and Khndzoresk in Gorisskiy Rayon were virtually destroyed due to the constant shelling from Grad rockets located at Azerbaijan's (Paradzhan) and (Gunedir) villages. Residents have been evacuated from these villages.

In addition, Azerbaijani news agencies are continuing to disseminate fabricated reports about Armenian attacks on Nakhichevan settlements. Here is what the 27 May issue of the Army paper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA wrote on this score: There is no large scale Armenian aggression, or plans for attack, against Nakhichevan. What is happening is mostly the result of the anti-Armenian campaign intentionally fanned by certain circles in Turkey.

Independence Day Celebrations Held 28 May

NC2805211692 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 28 May 92

[Excerpts] Today is Armenian independence day, one of the Armenian peoples most cherished holidays. We have attained our independence by winning the battles of Avarayr [against Persia in 451] and Sardarabad [against Turkey in 1918] and at the expense of difficult and bloody struggles throughout our history.

To mark the occasion, a ceremony was held today at the Republican Square during which Army soldiers took the national oath. Lida Gazaryan filed this report:

[Begin recording] [Gazaryan] The ceremony started at 1100 when Defense Minister Vazgen Sargsyan gave the order. [passage omitted]

After an oath-taking ceremony, Sargsyan addressed the gathering:

[Sargsyan] I congratulate you, Armenian officers and soldiers, on this fine moment of enthusiasm. I am thinking of the day when Armenian soldiers taking an oath will be such a common occurrence that no on will be amazed, no journalists will take note, and no one in the international community will see it as bizarre. [passage omitted]

Today's ceremony is justified and is meaningful to our people, who have long dreamed of having its own regular army as a guarantee for its [words indistinct] statehood and defenses, as a product of its sacrifices and as an assurance to dispel its fears. [passage omitted]

You are the product of the struggle of the Armenian fighters. Your greatest mission is to consolidate and defend the victories they achieved.

[Gazaryan] [passage omitted] Armenian Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan also congratulated the fighters of the Armenian National Army:

[Ararktsyan] Fighters and officers of the Armenian Army and dear compatriots: The gaze of Armenians throughout the world is fixed on this square. They have all turned their eyes to this square, where our independence day, the day of the creation of the republic, is being observed. This event obviously enhances the importance of this ceremony. You, the fighters of the Armenian Army, are the most important guarantee for the existence of our republic. Our people are peaceful and industrious, but they have proven recently that if our fatherland is infringed upon they are true fighters. I congratulate you in the name of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, and in you I see the most important guarantee of our republic's continued existence and progress. I congratulate you again.

[Gazaryan] Next, the Catholicos of all the Armenians Vazgen I conveyed his congratulations and offered a prayer. After the ceremony, a parade was held. [end recording]

Azerbaijan

Kamberov Interviewed on Conflict, Prospects

AU2905090992 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 26 May 92 p 8

[Interview with Azeri Executive President Isa Kamberov by Csaba Poor in Baku; date not given: "Islam Should Not Play a Political Role"]

[Text] The series of military defeats in Karabakh and the subsequent domestic political struggle has almost carried Azerbaijan into a civil war. When the Supreme Council reappointed Ayaz Mutalibov to his former position of president under the pressure of his followers on May 14, the opposition People's Front succeeded in abrogating this decision by means of a mass demonstration accompanied by smaller exchanges of fire. Following the stormy days, the emotions quieted down relatively quickly in Baku. Power is now in the hands of the People's Front that immediately promised a coalition government, and the parliament elected Isa Kamberov, one of the deputy heads of the People's Front, as its chairman and executive president. "If I did not have the support of a huge movement like the People's Front, I would regard this position as premature for me"—the 35-year-old head of the moderate wing of the People's Front said in an interview with MAGYAR HIRLAP.

[Poor] The Azeri People's Front regards the way in which Ayaz Mutalibov returned to power on 14 May as a coup d'etat. However, the next day, you gained power by using similar methods, by exercising massive pressure on the parliament, and there are people in this country who think this was a real coup d'etat....

[Kamberov] There is only a superficial resemblance between these two events. Enraged people demanded President Mutalibov's departure at the beginning of March. At that time, he had two possibilities: either to turn against its own people and preserve his power by means of bloodshed, or to abdicate. He decided to do the latter, and we regard this as a very clever step. The parliament accepted his resignation. Those who simply reappointed him two months later went beyond all bounds. There is no mechanism that enables a deposed president to simply return to his post without new elections or any democratic procedure. Obviously, this was a coup d'etat, all the more so because, unlike in March, on 14 May a small but armed group of people surrounded the parliament, and they could have even occupied the building. All these are appearances. The essential thing is that a man who does not enjoy the people's confidence—and Ayaz Mutalibov does not enjoy the people's confidence—cannot lead this country.

[Poor] However, Mutalibov had the reputation of a calm and balanced politician. He took the demands of the opposition into consideration, represented a different opinion on military issues within the CIS, and also started setting up his own army. Why did you have to get rid of him? Why is there no place for him in your coalition leadership?

[Kamberov] The former president himself made this cooperation impossible. He pushed Azerbaijan to the brink of civil war on 14 May. Therefore, he can definitely not participate in the coalition leadership. Indeed, he gave the impression of a cautious and balanced politician, but a real statesman must set out concrete goals, and he did not have this ability. He could neither create peace nor win. He could not decide on how to solve the conflict in Karabakh and how to put an end to the Armenian aggression. He was not firm enough for either peace talks or military actions. By actually hindering the creation of an independent army, he made both peace negotiations and efficient armed opposition impossible.

[Poor] Do you know how to solve the crisis in Karabakh?

[Kamberov] As opposed to Mutalibov, we will try once more to find a peaceful solution. If Armenia rejects our efforts, we will have to solve the problem of our country's territorial integrity by strengthening our military potential.

[Poor] How do you envisage these peaceful efforts? Moscow commentaries say that, with the stabilization of the People's Front power, the chances for a political solution are smaller than ever.

[Kamberov] This depends on what we mean by a political solution. If this is what we mean, namely to honor the generally accepted principles of international relations and of the Helsinki basic principles, the inviolability of borders, and to respect the human rights and the rights of national minorities, then there is a way out. However, if we are talking about a peaceful solution desired by some politicians and reporters, namely that Azerbaijan should give up a part of its territory, this obviously is impossible.

[Poor] What specific measures are you planning?

[Kamberov] The situation is currently being evaluated. Once we evaluate the intentions of the sides that could affect the situation, we will select the most suitable version among the various alternatives of our peaceful efforts.

[Poor] What versions are there?

[Kamberov] We have many versions.

[Poor] Are they all peaceful?

[Kamberov] Yes, in their first phase.

[Poor] What will you do if none of them succeeds?

[Kamberov] We will try to solve the crisis in a different way.

[Poor] With arms?

[Kamberov] We will have no other choice. It is now Armenia's turn to choose. After all, Armenia is the aggressor that occupied a considerable part of Azerbaijan. Armenia is already attacking Nakhichevan too, and the whole world is aware of this.

[Poor] The Turkish president declared recently that he did not exclude the possibility of military intervention. In your view, what would be the result of such a step?

[Kamberov] If Nakhichevan is threatened by a foreign country, its status will change, and Turkey has the right to interfere. However, we would not welcome such a turn of events.

[Poor] Obviously, the conflict in Karabakh is now the major problem in Azerbaijan, but the People's Front that has just come into power must also deal with other issues. What are the key motives in your program?

[Kamberov] The building of a uniform and secular constitutional state. We want a country with a market economy, a country that maintains mutually advantageous and equal relations with as many foreign states as possible, primarily with our neighbors: Iran, Russia, and Turkey, along with Europe and the West. We are striving for an active and balanced foreign policy.

[Poor] The political opponents of the People's Front claim that you are putting too much stress on nationalist feelings and, among your slogans of Islamization, Turkization, and modernization, the first two only serve to displace the non-Muslim and non-Turkish nations living here; the opponents also accuse you of risking the dismemberment of your country.

[Kamberov] Those slogans originate from 1918, from the first Eastern democratic state, and they mostly have a symbolic meaning today. Naturally, one must not take them literally, although I do not see anything bad in them.

Just as in the other republics of the former Soviet Union, Islam has been suppressed in Azerbaijan in the last 70 years. Mosques were not functioning, believers were harassed, and the principle of spiritual freedom was disregarded; all this greatly affected our people's moral character. We must admit that religion is one of the factors that contribute to the normal moral condition of a society. Thus, if we are talking about Islamization—and we do this rarely, and even then foreign countries are mostly the ones that get alarmed—we mean spiritual freedom and equal rights.

As for Turkization, this should not be understood literally. The people of Azerbaijan are of Turkish origin: For example, until 1936, the identity cards carried the word "Turk" in the rubric depicting one's nationality. Therefore, we are talking here about a return to our historical roots and identity. However, among the aforementioned three slogans, I regard "modernization" as the most important one, and we will focus our attention on this.

[Poor] Thus, in your opinion, Islam cannot play a political role in Azerbaijan.

[Kamberov] I think that Islam should not play a political role in this country. This can only happen if Azerbaijan becomes isolated from the rest of the world and if the international public opinion fails to pay attention to the Armenian aggression. In that case, the situation could change and the democratic forces could be forced back in the second or third line and then Islam could become the only slogan. However, aware of the world's attention, I think we do not have to fear this.

[Poor] Speaking with representatives of various parties and with simple people, one has the feeling that the anti-Russian feeling is strong enough in Azerbaijan.

[Kamberov] We can talk neither about anti-Russia nor anti-Russian feelings here, but one can see a certain amount of dissatisfaction with the policy of some political circles in Russia, and one can feel that there are people among the leaders in Moscow who want Russia to confront Azerbaijan and they unilaterally support the Armenian position on the Karabakh issue. However, we cannot allow emotions to take over. We must be realistic, and we are aware of the fact that Russia is a huge country that has its own interests in this region. We must find the balance of these interests, and we must seek a common language with Russia, Iran, and Turkey, because they are our major neighbors. A lot of things, including economic and other ties, bind us to Russia. Therefore, our contacts cannot be severed. At most, we can envisage some kind of evolutionary change in our relations; we must create an equal cooperation to replace the colonial relations.

[Poor] Azerbaijan has always been at the periphery of the CIS, and has always been among the member republics that might initiate the dismembering process of the CIS. What plans do the new leaders have? Will they leave the CIS?

[Kamberov] Even earlier, when the CIS was formed, just like many others, we also claimed that the Commonwealth of Independent States would either lead to the revival of the old empire or it would become a formal organization that does not give anything to its members. Experience shows that the CIS has no future. Various declarations of the members states lead one to draw this conclusion, and there are increasingly fewer people in Russia itself who show any hope for the strengthening of the CIS. In reality, bilateral relations are being developed under the cover of the CIS, and we focus on this instead.

[Poor] Does that mean that Azerbaijan will leave the CIS?

[Kamberov] We sent a delegation to Moscow led by the first deputy chairman of our Council of Ministers and, on the basis of his talks, we will be able to formulate our position on this issue more precisely.

[Poor] So no decision has been made yet?

[Kamberov] All I can say is that Azerbaijan will not be a member of an organization that is not based on equal relations.

[Poor] You said that you wished to rely primarily on the neighboring countries. However, it is well known that a particular competition is under way between Turkey and Iran for influence in the region and, on the basis of external signs, it seems that Ankara has won this competition in Azerbaijan. How will this affect your relations with Tehran?

[Kamberov] I do not think that this Turkish-Iranian competition is useful for Azerbaijan. In my view, the countries in this region should coordinate their activity, and the structural conditions for this are already available in the form of an economic structure with the participation of Turky, Iran, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and some other republics in Central Asia. I think that Azerbaijan will not develop foreign relations that would harm our cooperation with other countries.

[Poor] To be able to implement these plans, the People's Front must strengthen its power. However, according to some observers, this will not be easy, because there are conflicts and differences of views within the organization.

[Kamberov] Conflicts? What conflicts?

[Poor] I think you know this better than I do.

[Kamberov] There are no such conflicts within the People's Front. For example, we made a uniform decision on nominating our leader, Ebulfez Elchibey, to run in the presidential elections. There is no internal opposition, and there are no serious differences of views here. We only fail to find a common language with some parties that are not members of the People's Front, like the Social Democrats or the National Independence Party.

[Poor] It seems that Geydar Aliyev, the former omnipotent head of Azerbaijan, is currently in a waiting position. He allegedly declared once that the time would come when everyone will understand that only he can save this country, and then he would return in power. Could this really happen?

[Kamberov] Geydar Aliyev has prestige in Azerbaijan. He has great experience, and he also worked at the highest level in the former Soviet Union. I count on his support and help. One cannot exclude the possibility that he might return to power. If Isa Kamberov could unexpectedly get into this chair, why should Geydar Aliyev not get into this chair, a person about whom everyone is talking? However, one thing should be remembered: The situation is so complex in Azerbaijan today that this country can only be led by people with serious political forces behind them, and only the People's Front can provide such support today.

APF's Elchibey Warns of Possible Civil War

NC2705133992 Istanbul TERCUMAN in Turkish 8 May 92 p 9

[Emin Pazarci report from Baku: "Elchibey: Civil War May Break Out in Azerbaijan"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Ebulfez Elchibey, leader of the Azerbaijan Popular Front [APF], met with a group of Turkish journalists in Baku. Elchibey claimed that Azerbaijan has been unable to convey its views to the world at large because the Armenian lobby has "placed the international press under its influence."

Noting that Azerbaijan's only hope was the Turkish Radio Television network and the Turkish newspapers, he said: "Moscow and the servile Armenians are preventing us from conveying our views. The world became aware of developments in Karabakh only after our Turkish brothers organized demonstrations in Anatolia. Moscow's approach toward Azerbaijan has changed. We have been unable to tell the world about the massacre in Khodzhaly. Nevertheless, it is not too late. Out Turkish brothers must convey our views to the world and expose the Armenians.

Moscow is supporting Armenia. Moscow has a large number of personnel there. Furthermore, Moscow supplies arms to the Armenians; we did not have any weapons when the troubles began. We have acquired Kalashnikov firearms. The Armenians were given artillery; we acquired artillery as well. The Armenians were supplied with tanks; we, too, acquired a number of tanks. The Armenians were supplied with helicopters; we acquired a number of helicopters as well. The Armenians are now being supplied with aircraft. They have MiG fighters. We are also trying to acquire aircraft. The Armenians are also being supplied with chemical weapons." [passage omitted]

Elchibey asserted that the APF is strong enough to bring Azerbaijan's borders under control two months after presidential elections are held. Predicting that the APF will win the elections, Elchibey discussed priorities: "We will work to establish our national army. We will also implement our economic program. Furthermore, we will strengthen our cultural relations with Turkey; we plan to have a common language."

Elchibey accused the pro-Moscow forces and the KGB of trying to create confusion in Azerbaijan, saying: "They have distributed 35,000 Kalashnikov rifles and other heavy weapons to their supporters. Weapons have been hidden in many houses. We have urged the government to collect these weapons. Instead of concentrating on the election campaign, we are working to have these arms collected in order to prevent disturbances. The APF is stronger than they are, but we wish to come to power through elections, not through clashes."

Elchibey answered a question on the situation by saying that Azerbaijan was faced with the threat of "civil war." He said: "The elections cannot be postponed. They may be rigged, however. No election has ever been held in Azerbaijan without dishonest manipulations. We shall invite international representatives to observe the elections. If there is trickery, then we shall move to defend our rights through legal means." [passage omitted]

APF Leader Sends Letter to President Bush

NC2805183892 Istanbul TURKIYE in Turkish 25 May 92 p 15

[Text] Washington—Ebulfez Ali Elchibey, the leader of the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] and the strongest candidate in the upcoming Azerbaijani presidential elections scheduled for 7 June, wrote a letter to U.S. President George Bush asking for his help in consolidating democracy in Azerbaijan and resolving the problem in Nagorno-Karabakh.

This "historic" letter was handed over to a high-ranking State Department official, John F. Tefft, by the APF's honorary representative in Washington and our paper's Washington correspondent, Ahmet Ali Arslan. Speaking at an official ceremony organized to receive the letter, Tefft said that the letter will be passed on to the President and a reply will follow as soon as possible.

Azerbaijan's Democracy Struggle

In his letter, Elchibey says that Azerbaijan has made great strides in its struggle for freedom and democracy and that the APF will emerge the winner in the 7 June elections.

Elchibey started his letter by writing: "I am writing this letter in difficult days for the people of Azerbaijan on its road to full independence, democracy and human rights." The AFP leader added that the state's aim is to set up a republic that respects common human values, and that the foundations of statehood were first laid in the East by the independent Azerbaijan republic created in 1918.

Expressing his belief that the American people believe in such values as the supremacy of law, democracy, and human rights, Elchibey said: "We want to inform all mankind that if we do win the 7 June elections, as we expect, we will abide by the fundamental principles of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter."

In his letter, Elchibey said that the purpose of the letter is to dispel some misleading information about the APF and to give some first-hand information on the truth. "If the APF wins the 7 June elections, a government will be set up which will pursue reforms aligned to human rights, democracy, and other international principles," he added.

Invitation for Investment

In his letter, Elchibey indicated that in addition to endorsing democracy and human rights, an APF government would move to a free market economy. He said that he would be pleased to see U.S. companies investing in his country.

Elchibey also emphasized that the mountainous Karabakh region, which has come under Armenian attack recently, has been the land of the Azerbaijani Turks throughout history. He noted that the enemies of democracy want to aggravate the crisis. That is why, he said, they are instigating Armenian gangs. People are gradually coming to understand this fact. Elchibey used the following expression: "We need the prestige and help of the people and government of the United States to peacefully solve the Karabakh problem."

President Addresses Nation on Independence Day

LD2805141792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1146 GMT 28 May 92

[By AZERINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Baku May 28 TASS—No force can turn Azerbaijan away from the path of democracy. That is an objective historic development which cannot be reversed. Azerbaijan's Acting President Isa Kamberov said, addressing the nation on the occasion of independence day, which is being celebrated in Azerbaijan on Thursday [28 May].

Kamberov called the nation not to succumb to provocations of those forces which try to destroy the country and to sow discord between the population of Azerbaijan.

Kamberov, who is also a Popular Front leader, said the country should unite its efforts and build a civilized society.

Leaders Open Nakhichevan-Turkish Bridge

NC2805200692 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] The most jubilant development on Azerbaijani independence day was the opening of the bridge on the Aras River between the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] and Turkey. Many guests from Istanbul, Baku, and Moscow arrived in Nakhichevan to attend the ceremonies.

A congratulatory telegram from President Turgut Ozal was read during the opening ceremony. Isa Kamberov, acting president and Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet chairman, addressed the people and said that the bridge will link the Turkic world. On behalf of Azerbaijan's leaders, Isa Kamberov expressed his gratitude for the construction of the bridge. NAR Supreme Assembly Chairman Geydar Aliyev addressed the ceremony after Kamberov. A one-minute silence was observed in memory of those who have fallen while defending our lands. Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Erdal Inonu addressed the ceremony after the martyrs were remembered. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel spoke next and thanked the construction workers and expressed the hope that peace and security will be established in the region.

The new bridge is 286 meters long and 12 meters wide. The bridge links the NAR with Turkey and facilitates travel. The opening ceremony was covered by the Turkish and Azerbaijan television networks.

Turkish Prime Minister Visits Nakhichevan

TA2805201592 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1900 GMT 28 May 92

[Text] After opening the Bridge of Hope, Prime Minister Demirel went to Nakhichevan accompanied by a very large crowd. He visited the martyrs cemetery there, laid a wreath, and prayed.

The prime minister then opened the Turkish Bank in Nakhichevan and addressed the citizens in Azatlik [Independence] Square. He said that Turkey is extremely happy that Azerbaijan has regained its independence. You must protect this and you must maintain your unity, he said, adding: Nobody can harm you. We are with you, and we made sure that the world also is with you.

Demirel reiterated that those who believe that they can change borders by force will be frustrated. He said that Turkey made the whole world aware of the developments in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan. He added: Ataturk, the great son of our nation, said that Azerbaijan's sorrow is our sorrow, and its joy is our joy. If you hurt here, we hurt more in Turkey. Your 60 million brothers in Turkey are with you under all conditions; I want you to know that.

The prime minister stated that the people living on the two banks of the Aras River are the children of the same nation. He said that with this bridge that joins the two banks of the Aras River, the two countries became one again.

Demirel stressed that happy days are before us, and said: Azerbaijan and Turkey will exist forever. Long live Turkey; long live Azerbaijan; long live Nakhichevan!

In a speech, Nakhichevan President Geydar Aliyev said that he was very happy to see Prime Minister Demirel and the Turkish delegation in his country. He said that with the opening of the Bridge of Hope, Azerbaijan and Turkey are rejoined closely. He said that his people are very grateful to Turkey and to Prime Minister Demirel for the help they have extended to Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan and for making the Azeris' voice heard in their just cause.

Demirel and his delegation returned to Ankara a short while ago. The Council of Ministers has now convened under the prime minister.

Further on New Officials' Appointments

NC2805125392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] In line with the decrees issued by Isa Kamberov, acting president and Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet chairman, Kh. Mezair ogly Veliyev, has been appointed head of the (Gadzhygabul) Rayon Executive Authority, replacing Guseynov, who has been appointed to another post.

Intizam Nizam ogly Akperov has been appointed head of the Imishlinskiy Rayon Executive Authority, replacing Dzhafarov, who has been moved elsewhere.

Arrest of Russian GRU Agents Announced

LD2805225792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Azerbaijan Interior Minister Gamidov announced on television late last night the arrest in Baku of six employees of the Russian Main Intelligence Directorate [GRU]. Gamidov told television viewers that a total of 42 GRU employees were recently detained and expelled from the country, the TURAN agency reports.

Prime Minister Praises Iran's Efforts

LD2705120692 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 27 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 27, IRNA—Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ragim Guseynov Tuesday [26 May] praised Iran for her efforts to bring a settlement to the Karabakh issue, disputed between the two neighboring republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia for four years.

Prime Minister Guseynov made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Baku 'Ali Akbar Nehavandian.

Guseynov said Azerbaijan would guarantee access roads for Armenia for transportation of goods granted that Yerevan withdrew from Lachin. Lachin was occupied by the Armenian forces May 18.

He also voiced Baku's readiness to implement agreements of the Tehran summit, held earlier this month with participation of the presidents of Iran, Azerbaijan and Armenia for settling the Karabakh dispute.

Appeal Notes No Kurdish Opposition in Republic

NC2805154192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Kurdish community representatives in Azerbaijan have appealed to the world through the ASSA-IRADA NEWS AGENCY, stressing in particular that the Kurds in Azerbaijan do not oppose Azerbaijan. So there is neither a Kurdish movement for national independence nor an armed Kurdish opposition in the republic. The appeal went on:

The Kurds have fought together with the Azerbaijani people during the most difficult times, when the Armenians of Dachnak [a political party] committed violent acts in Azerbaijan. The wish that was expressed for establishing a Kurdish region in Azerbaijan should not be taken to mean that the Kurds and the Azerbaijanis opposed each other. The Kurds in Lachinskiy Rayon are Azerbaijani citizens. None of this republic's citizens has a moral or legal right to create a corridor for the occupation forces. The Kurdish minority has condemned this treachery. Once again, we want to disclose, by raising the fabricated Kurdish question, that the Armenian side is trying to camouflage its aggression against Azerbaijan and provoke a new interethnic dispute in our troubled republic.

Nakhichevan Leader Comments on Border Talks

TA2405163092 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 24 May 92

[Text] Armenian forces are continuing their attack despite the unilateral, temporary cease-fire declared by the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]. There has been intermittent firing on the border because the NAR forces, which have abided by the cease- fire for the past two days, have occasionally been forced to return the Armenian fire.

NAR President Geydar Aliyev, in a statement to the Turkish Radio and Television, stated that Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan said that he told his forces to stop firing in a bid to reach a lasting cease-fire. Aliyev added that Sarkisyan phoned him this afternoon and proposed that the NAR and Armenian delegations meet at the Russian brigade headquarters on the border to arrange a permanent cease-fire. Aliyev said that although the Armenian authorities had given assurances that those who entered the area of fighting to pick up the bodies of the martyred militia would not be fired upon, they broke their promises and killed an Azerbaijani Turk. Noting that there are difficulties in implementing the NAR's unilaterally declared cease-fire because the Armenians are continuing their fire, Aliyev added that his forces have, at times, been forced to return the fire. Pointing out that the Hasret Koprusu [Bridge of Longing] on the Turkish-NAR border will be inaugurated on 28 May, Aliyev added that Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will participate in the ceremony and that he will be visiting the NAR.

Fighting in Nakhichevan, Foreign Moves Viewed

MK2505120192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 May 92 pp 1,3

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under the "Transcaucasus" rubric: "Internationalization of the Conflict"]

[Text] TURAN reports that Armenian gunmen continued their attacks on the Sadarak region of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic 22 May. The entire 14,000-strong population of the region was evacuated on the orders of the Nakhichevan Defense Committee. Volunteers are still arriving in Sadarak from various parts of Azerbaijan. However, the position espoused by the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, in ruling out Turkish military intervention in the conflict, has brought a sharp response from the Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan leadership. Geydar Aliyev thinks that the

Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic has the right to ask Turkey for military intervention on the basis of the Kars Treaty of 1921. The Nakhichevan leader said that "there is puzzlement not only over Shaposhnikov's statement, but also at the talks that Russian State Secretary Burbulis and Defense Minister Grachev are conducting in Armenia." Marshal Shaposhnikov's statement regarding the threat of World War III was criticized by Tamerlan Garayev, Azerbaijan deputy speaker, who said at a press conference in the Azerbaijan mission in Moscow 22 May: "These statements further encourage the aggressor occupying Azerbaijan territory and provide carte blanche for further unpunished actions."

In this connection Tamerlan Garayev warned that "If events in the region continue to develop in this way, the Azerbaijan leadership will ask Turkey to immediately engage in military intervention to repulse the Armenian aggression." The deputy speaker did not rule out the possibility of his meeting with Turkish Premier Demirel 25 May on the republic leadership's instructions—the latter is coming to Moscow on an official visit.

When asked by one journalist whether Russia's special services are involved in Armenian troops' capture of Shusha, Tamerlan Garayev said: "That can only be proved following the investigation, which is not yet complete."

The Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry sent a note to the Armenian foreign policy department 21 May. The Azerbaijan Foreign Ministry described Armenian troops' capture of the city of Lachin and attack on an autonomous part of Azerbaijan—Nakhichevan—as a "flagrant case of lawlessness and cynicism." The Russian foreign policy department issued a statement 22 May. "No attendant circumstances give a state the right to annex another state's territory," the Russian Foreign Ministry points out. "No one can expect Russian support for such illegal actions." In this connection the Russian Foreign Ministry stressed that "it cannot condone the capture of Lachin or, if this has indeed taken place, armed formations' attack on areas of Nakhichevan bordering on Armenia."

However Washington has once again urged Azerbaijan and Armenia to "promote the normalization of the situation in the region." Richard Boucher, the U.S. State Department's official spokesman, once again reiterated the U.S. position at a news conference 21 May. The United States will not support third party intervention in the conflict. Boucher thinks that Turkey's role in the conflict is constructive. He said that next week Secretary of State Baker intends to hold talks on the Karabakh question with Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin during the conference in Lisbon. Boucher reckons that the secretary of state also plans to have conversations separately with the Armenian and Azerbaijan foreign ministers.

According to Turkish sources, the command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces are taking steps to reinforce Nakhichevan's borders with Turkey and Iran. There are reports that CIS border troops there, previously under the jurisdiction of the USSR KGB, have been put on increased alert.

Officials Interviewed on Fighting, Talks

PM2805174092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 May 92 First Edition p 7

[Interviews with Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian and Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet First Deputy Chairman Tamerlan Karayev by Aleksandr Alekseyev in Moscow; dates not given: "Azerbaijan and Armenia Await Help, But Have Little Faith in the Possibility of Reconciliation"]

[Text] Events in Nagorno-Karabakh and on the Nakhichevan border are looking increasingly like the start of a major and terrible war. Information on the conflict, which has been going on for four years already, remains contradictory. But the escalation of tension here is greater than ever, and never before have reports from the region been so reminiscent of dispatches from a war zone.

Armenian and Azerbaijani Government delegations arrived in Moscow separated by an interval of one day. Not for joint talks—for meetings with the Russian leadership. If you compare their views you can see that peace cannot be expected on that territory.

Raffi Hovannisian: "If Turkey Intervenes, We Will Appeal to the CIS for Help"

"What could you expect from a people cut off from the whole world by a blockade and doomed to die of hunger and diseases? The people of Karabakh could stand it no longer, and at a moment of despair they broke out"—that is how the Armenian foreign minister explains the reason for the flareup of conflict.

[Alekseyev] What happened on the Nakhichevan border?

[Hovannisian] The escalation of tension that has broken out on the border is an attempt by Azerbaijan to drag Armenia into the conflict that exists between Baku and Stepanakert. We are a third party to that conflict. But everything is being done to extend that zone, and then enlist Turkey's assistance. That is why they needed Nakhichevan. In our opinion, the forces that launched an attack on Armenia from Nakhichevan were not under Aliyev's control—they simply wanted to demonstrate their commitment to the People's Front, which has come to power. What is happening in the cities and villages there today shows that the government is not in control of the troops.

Armenia, however, is fully in control of its armed formations, and wants to maintain good relations with Aliyev's government.

[Alekseyev] Do those formations include regular army troops?

[Hovannisian] No, the army is not involved in the fighting, only the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh and their relatives who have come to their assistance. Although mercenaries from Turkey, to our knowledge, are also fighting on Azerbaijan's side. Soon after the events began, the Turkish foreign minister called me and said that his country is no longer neutral and will do everything to help Azerbaijan. And this aid is not only political and economic, but military too...

[Alekseyev] Is a return to talks possible today?

[Hovannisian] All the questions can be resolved only through direct talks between Baku and Stepanakert. But Azerbaijan is refusing to talk with Nagorno-Karabakh, denying its right to self-determination. Representatives of the legitimate authorities have not participated in any of the recent talks. That is why they have ended without result, and the conflict is growing.

[Alekseyev] What do you see as the possible solution to the conflict? What will tomorrow bring?

[Hovannisian] The conflict can be resolved in this way: first a full cease-fire and the sending of international forces to Nagorno-Karabakh to ensure peace and the protection of the local population. Then talks to define the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Alekseyev] What can you say about the grouping of CIS troops on the border with Turkey?

[Hovannisian] That is the result of Armenia's talks with the CIS military leadership. This border is ultimately not only Armenia's, but the Commonwealth's too. Russia's army will stay in Armenia at our request. We would like to believe that Turkey will not intervene and send in its troops. But if that happens, we will have to appeal to the Commonwealth for help. And remember the rights we acquired in Tashkent... [Hovannisian ends]

Tamerlan Karayev: "We Will Be Able To Mobilize the Population To Rebuff Aggression"

"We think it was a mistake to hope for a peaceful resolution of the conflict all this time. While we were hoping, Armenia was arming. And now a whole Armenian expeditionary corps is in action on our territory," the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet first deputy chairman says.

[Alekseyev] Will the hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh be affected by the coming to power of the People's Front, of which you are one of the leaders?

[Karayev] Yes. I think we will be able to mobilize the population to rebuff aggression. It will be a limited draft, taking into account the republic's potential. We want to strengthen our defense capability. Armenia has already seized 75 of our settlements.

[Alekseyev] But then the conflict will inevitably develop into a war...

[Karayev] Armenia has been waging war on Azerbaijan for a long time.

[Alekseyev] Do you intend to make use of military aid from Turkey?

[Karayev] We have Turkey's political support. We have not asked its government for any other support. But if the aggression against us continues, maybe we will have to do so.

[Alekseyev] But in that case do you admit the possibility of countermeasures by the Commonwealth, which has concluded a treaty on collective security?

[Karayev] We will discuss and are discussing with the Russian Government the question of whether the CIS countries will intervene if Turkey intervenes...

[Alekseyev] But why are you refusing to hold talks with Nagorno-Karabakh?

[Karayev] Azerbaijan does not acknowledge and will not acknowledge any such thing as Nagorno-Karabakh. There is an Armenian community—we are prepared to hold talks with them. But while Azerbaijan's territory is occupied there can be no question of any talks.

[Alekseyev] What is the purpose of your visit to Moscow?

[Karayev] The main purpose is to sign a treaty on bilateral relations. Russia and Azerbaijan have common borders, and many Azerbaijanis live in your country, and Russians in ours.

[Alekseyev] There have recently been reports of provocations against them...

[Karayev] The government and the People's Front will seek to ensure that there are no more such provocations.

[Alekseyev] Has your implacable stance on the CIS changed?

[Karayev] It has not changed. The Supreme Soviet has not yet examined the question of membership of the CIS. Moreover we have the impression that fewer and fewer republics believe in the viability of the Commonwealth. [Karayev ends]

...These positions do not overlap. It seems that if there is any hope, it rests with a third party. Russia? The Commonwealth? The UN Security Council? Meanwhile, chemical weapons of mysterious origin have come into play.

Armenian Advance on 27 May Reported

TA2905110292 Ankara ANATOLIA in French 1024 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] Ankara, May 28 (AA)—Armenians crossed the Azerbaijani border 27 May and attacked certain Azeri villages, it was reported on 28 May.

Infiltrating 4 km into Azerbaijani territory, the Armenians occupied some strategic hills. It appears that the Armenians also attacked the village of Seydimli in the region of Zangelan.

It is reported that clashes between Azeris and Armenians are continuing and that there are casualties.

Georgia

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached With Ossetias

LD2705192492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 May 92

[Report by correspondent I. Tabolova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Begin recording] The possibility of talks on a peaceful settlement to the conflict in South Ossetia and the need to lift Georgia's fuel and transport blockade—these were the questions discussed in Vladikavkaz today at a meeting between the leadership of North Ossetia and Aleksandr Kavsadze, the Georgian vice prime minister. A huge amount of transport has piled up on the border between North Ossetia and Georgia along the Georgian Military Highway. The people of Northern Ossetia—and their numbers include nearly 100,000 refugees from Georgia—are monitoring the progress of the fulfillment of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet decision on Georgia's blockade, and have no intention of disrupting it, especially after today's report on the heavy rocket and artillery shelling of Tskhinval.

[Unidentified man] The processes have become virtually unmanageable because of those forces who are not interested in a peaceful settlement of the conflict and we know that there are such forces. I think that they are on both sides, and we must do everything to prevent them from inflaming or deepening this conflict. [end recording]

[Announcer Sergey Dorenko] Still, they managed to find a compromise. As the RIA agency reports, a working group of Georgia and North and South Ossetia reached an agreement in Vladikavkaz today on a cease-fire from 0000 on 28 May.

The head of the North Ossetian parliament has, nevertheless, urged Russia to bring its army into the region. If this is not done, the republic reserves the right to review its attitude toward the Federation Treaty.

Cease-Fire Reportedly Violated

OW2805144092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Despite the cease-fire agreement reached on Wednesday [27 May], Tskhinval, the administrative center of South Ossetia has been shelled again, Chairman of the South Ossetian Council of Ministers Oleg Teziyev said. Three people were gravely wounded.

According to the Georgian Interior Ministry's press center, last night Georgian villages were shelled for several hours from the side of Tskhinval. There are no victims.

The cease-fire agreement, which went into effect at 00:00 May 28 was reached in Vladikavkaz during talks involving Chairman of the North Ossetian parliament Akhsarbek Galazov, Chairman of the South Ossetian parliament Torez Kulumbegov, Georgian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Kavsadze and Chairman of the Russian parliament's Commission for National and State Set-up and Ethnic Relations Nikolai Medvedev.

The parties agreed to continue the talks at a higher level. Such talks are likely to take place in Vladikavkaz in the middle or end of June.

The participants in the talks discussed the North Ossetian economic blockade of Georgia. The Ossetian side declared that only the parliament can decide whether or not to lift it, when Georgia stops shelling Ossetian villages. According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, the North Ossetian parliament will gather for a session in the middle of June.

On the same day the North Ossetian Council of Ministers and the presidium of the North Ossetian parliament gathered for a joint session, also in Vladikavkaz. The Russian leadership was angrily criticized for failing to take efficient measures to protect the Ossetian people. The joint statement says that Russia must protect all its citizens, not the Russian people alone. The North Ossetian leaders believe that the Russian parliament must recognize the independence of the South Ossetian Republic.

On Wednesday, a joint Georgian-Ossetian group of observers did not begin its work in Tskhinval because, to quote the Georgian Interior Ministry's press center, the Georgian side was not given adequate security guarantees.

Talks 'In Question'

LD2905092892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] On the situation in South Ossetia: A report came in from Tskhinval today to the effect that late yesterday evening, while the missile and artillery battering was still raging over the town, a session of the republican Supreme Soviet still managed to go on. The deputies examined the disastrous situation in the republic and declared the territory of South Ossetia a zone of military hostilities. Talks planned for today between the Ossetian and Georgian sides in Vladikavkaz on a settlement to the armed conflict in South Ossetia and the lifting of Georgia's power and transport blockade are in question. This is linked with the fact that the Georgian side has not fulfilled the conditions of the accord by beginning the shelling of Tskhinval and Ossetian villages.

The situation has become exacerbated: There is also a report that on 28 May the bodies of six fighters were discovered in the village of Khetaguri. Tbilisi's reaction to the latest crime by bandits and the resumption of the shelling of Tskhinval is as yet unknown.

Casualties Reported

OW2905105092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1023 GMT 29 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Notwithstanding the cease-fire agreement reached in Vladikavkaz last Wednesday [27 May] the South Ossetia's administrative center Tskhinvali and nearby villages were again covered with rocket-artillery fire at night May 29, the Chairman of the South Ossetia's Supreme Soviet Torez Kolumbegov told "IF" [INTERFAX]. As a result 6 people were killed and 11 were wounded.

According to Kolumbegov, due to the aggravation of the situation the South Ossetia's leadership had to postpone a visit to Vladikavkaz scheduled for May 29 to meet the North Ossetia's leaders.

Meanwhile a joint session of the Supreme Soviet's Presidium, Council of Ministers, and the republican committee of self defense of North Ossetia was held in Vladikavkaz Friday [29 May]. They were discussing the situation in South Ossetia. There are no details on the results of the session.

State Council Hears Arms, Ossetia Reports

OW2805222492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1837 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Prime Minister of Georgia, Tengiz Sigua, has told the Georgian state Council that Russia's Defence Minister had signed an order to hand over to Georgia for its future national army 4 military bases, 30 tanks, 100 infantry combat vehicles, 1000 armored personnel carriers, 100 howitzers, 10 thousand sub-machine guns, 2 thousand hand-guns and 20 million pieces of ammunition. He said that in the future Georgia would receive 40-45 helicopter gun-ships MI-24 and two naval bases, one in Poti and the other in Ochamchiri. That may happen in August or September.

Georgia's deputy Prime Minister, chairman of the state committee for inter-ethnic relations and human rights, Sandro Kavsadze briefed the state council on the results of Wednesday's [27 May] talks with the leaders of North Ossetia in Vladikavkaz. He said that an agreement had been achieved on a cease-fire, however, no specific date was set yet, because the authorities of North Ossetia needed consultations with the leaders of the Tskhinval district. In the meantime, it was decided to form a mixed group of observers who would monitor the cease-fire, and a joint group of investigators to inquire into the Kehviy massacre of May 20. Kavsadze said that on May 30 or June 1 the parliament of North Ossetia was likely to meet in session to consider lifting the blockade of Georgia.

The State Council issued an appeal to the Parliament of Russia with a call for explaining its attitude to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict. Eduard Shevardnadze said that the blockade of Georgia by North Ossetia (the suspension of gas supplies and the control of the Military-Georgian Highway), which is part of Russia, may worsen relations between Georgia and Russia. The Russian President must be aware of that. If the blockade is not lifted within three or four days, Georgia will be faced with disaster.

'Large Amount' of Arms To Arrive From Russia

LD2805172892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1715 GMT 28 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov; from the "ITAR- TASS World and Home News-in-Brief" column]

[Text] Tbilisi, May 28 TASS—Georgia will soon receive a large amount of up-to-date armoured vehicles, artillery guns and small arms from Russia, Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua announced at a meeting of the Republic's Council of State on Thursday [28 May].

Russian defence minister, Colonel General Pavel Grachev, on Wednesday [27 May] signed an instruction to give Georgia 100 artillery guns and combat infantry vehicles, 30 tanks, 10,000 Kalashnikov submachine guns and 2,000 Makarov pistols, Sigua said."

Commission Argues Against Ossetian Autonomy

AU2505074392 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 12 May 92 p 3

[Statement from the Special Government Commission on Problems in the Tskhinvali Region; place and date not given: "First Aim Is a Cease-Fire"]

[Text] **From the Special Government Commission on Problems in the Tskhinvali Region**

At the present stage, the first aim of the Special Government Commission on Problems in the Tskhinvali Region is to achieve a cease-fire in the Tskhinvali region. Together with its own practical work, the commission considers it necessary to elaborate in general terms those political principles that, in its opinion, will lay the basis, in the future, for stable peace and harmony in the Tskhinvali region and in Georgia in general and in accordance with which the commission will be able to direct its work.

Specifically:

1. The commission considers it necessary to state that the aforementioned conflict that assumed a bloody form as early as in December 1989 is not connected with the abolition of the "South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast" by the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council on 11 December 1990 but is only the natural result of the situation that existed up to then and the outcome of a complicated complex of factors. Accordingly, the viewpoint of one part of the Ossetian side in the conflict as well as that of some foreign persons that the restoration of the status quo would be a factor in ending or easing the conflict cannot be seen as having any substance. Proceeding from what has been stated, the course of action aimed at normalization has to be determined today only on the basis of a thorough analysis of and realistic approach toward the currently existing situation taking into account the real viewpoints and feelings of all sectors of the population, both Georgian and Ossetian, Armenian and Jewish.

2. The commission believes that the granting of national-territorial, specifically, Ossetian autonomy in Tskhinvali and its adjoining territories has to be rejected once and for all because:

a) the existence of Ossetian national-territorial autonomy in the Tskhinvali region runs counter to the duty of the Georgian authorities before Ossetian citizens in Georgia. Out of the 165,000 Ossetians who live in compact groups in several scattered regions, the territorial-autonomous form of satisfying Ossetians' social, cultural, and economic interests affects only 65,000 or those living in the Tskhinvali region; the other 100,000 remain discriminated against;

b) the existence of this autonomy runs counter to the duty of the Republic of Georgia authorities before other national groups making up the Georgian population (excluding Georgians and Abkhazians) because the creation of national-territorial autonomy for one or several of them will inevitably hinder the development of other non- territorial forms of satisfying the interests of minority national groups and, in this way, will harm the remaining national minorities. Justice and the interests of civil harmony demand that the form of satisfying the social, cultural, and economic interests of minority national groups be one and the same for all;

c) the existence of Ossetian territorial autonomy in the Tskhinvali region runs counter to the interests of the Georgian nation and the Georgian state because the generalization of that principle of satisfying the interests of national minorities according to which the aforementioned autonomy was created in central Georgia would result in the disintegration of a large part of Georgian territory into similar national-territorial autonomies and the transformation of a large number of citizens of Georgian nationality into minorities in the given autonomies;

d) finally, and this is the most important thing, the existence of the aforementioned autonomy runs counter to the fundamental principles of human coexistence, including the principle of the protection of peace between citizens, if a state's structure is based upon that principle in accordance with which the status of a specific part of its territory will depend upon the demographic dynamic of national groups in that part of the territory; this will force different national groups to fear one another's demographic well-being, something that will create the basis for armed conflicts arising between groups.

3. The commission believes that the full implementation of the civil rights of representatives of the Ossetian national minority living in Georgia as well as of all other national minorities and equally the rights of the representatives of all other nationalities is one of the fundamental principles of the Georgian state and social system and, as such, should always remain so. The commission points out that it does not know of any fact of inequality with regard to a citizen's nationality in past, recent, and most recent history favoring citizens of Georgian nationality.

4. The commission believes that local democratic self-determination, something which is accepted in all democratic countries and which is, in general, one of the fundamental principles of administrative structure and control throughout the whole territory of Georgia represents the best form and guarantee of protecting the interests of one or another national majority in one or another territorial-administrative unit, including the protection of the interests of those majorities that are a minority on a national scale.

5. The commission believes that the Ossetian national minority as well as all other minorities and also the Georgian and Abkhaz peoples have the holiest right and it is their duty before their ancestors to preserve their national character for ever, whereas it is the duty of the Georgian state to take all measures and spare no expense in order to implement this duty and these rights; the commission considers that the best organizational form for achieving this end are state and political all-republican or all-Georgian associations (associations of fellow countrymen, and others) of members of national minorities with legally recorded rights in the sphere of the implementation of cultural and other types of autonomy. This organizational form has the advantage that it can embrace:

a) all national minorities, including those numbering few members;

b) all parts of a given minority and not only those living in compact groups.

6. The commission believes that, in order to achieve a cease-fire and prevent further human victims in the Tskhinvali region, it is necessary, in the first instance:

a) to open blocked roads and, in this way, grant free access to Georgian or Ossetian compact communities;

b) to elaborate an optimum scheme for patrolling roads and crossroads.

Nodar Natadze, chairman of the commission.

Henri Kuprashvili, senior secretary.

Ossetians Reportedly Obstruct Massacre Probe

OW2805173692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ossetian side continues to keep Georgian prosecutors from the site of the May 20 massacre in South Ossetia, says the special envoy of the Georgian State Council to the area of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, first deputy Foreign Minister Robinzon Tushurashvili.

On that day unidentified Georgian gunmen massacred a group of Ossetian refugees. More than 30 people, including children, were killed. Tushurashvili did not rule out the possibility that armed supporters of the ousted President, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, as well as his envoys were operating in the area "in a bid to destabilize the situation." At the same time Tushurashvili said destabilization was playing into the hands of forces who would like to involve in the conflict North Ossetia and with it—Russia.

Official on Reform Process, National Currency

OW2505172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1616 GMT 25 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's Vice-Premier Roman Gotsiridze told IF [INTERFAX] that the Georgian media do not fully reflect the ongoing reforms. He noted, however, that one should not always inform the public of what stands behind the government's reforms in order to avoid panic.

He said that despite the current crisis, Georgia has outdistanced the rest of the former Union republics in some of the economic areas. This refers above all to private entrepreneurship, trade and the customs sphere where minimal duties have been established. He noted at the same time that in the banking and financial spheres, and in exchange activity, his republic was seriously lagging behind.

The Georgian vice-premier said that Georgia will have a currency of its own. It would be unwise to introduce it, given the current rouble system. Six months ago, Lithuania had Lithuanian money printed but is in no hurry to put it in circulation. In his opinion the reason for this is that the whole of this money may ultimately flow into Russia. "We shall put our national monetary unit into circulation at the most favorable moment, in about 18 months," said Gotsiridze.

Government's Economic Recovery Program Pondered

PM2705154992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 May 92 First Edition p 3

[Correspondent David Mdivani report under the "Reforms" rubric: "Hope Is Alive, But Belts Must Be Tightened"]

[Text] Throughout last year, Georgia lived in hope that the government's economic policy would be declassified. But it remained a closed book of secrecy. Mainly because the program simply was not realized.

Apart from the dilettantism of Georgia's former functionaries, the economic situation was also complicated by wholly objective causes. It is complex even now, as existing reserves were squandered carelessly and no new reserves were created, so they have to start all but from scratch. Hence the interest in the government resolution on the basic areas of economic reform, and, naturally, the program itself has prompted interest: What will tomorrow bring? The program envisages various forms of privatization, which will embrace not only loss-making enterprises but also profitable ones. Foreign capital will be heavily involved in revitalizing loss-making enterprises. Many Western firms have already announced their willingness to cooperate. This is particularly important, as one of the policies in Georgia's program is to prepare the ground for integrating the republic economy into world economic processes.

Genuine freedom of enterprise is equally important. The fate of commercial activity has been decided—it is to be completely liberalized. The post-socialist state is switching to the stage of building capitalism. Exactly when it will be deemed developed is hard to say, whereas it is easy to predict a price surge in the coming months. At best, the state will try to preserve regulated prices for a very narrow range of goods and services—"those necessary to maintain basic living standards for the population," as the program states, without concealing the fact that the "majority of the population is on the poverty line and subsists merely thanks to meager savings."

Economists believe that this situation can be attributed to the chaotic system of monetary circulation, full dependence upon the ruble mass, and the lack of a separate currency. But until the economy gets back on its feet, there is no point in building up false hopes for creating a separate currency. Therefore, the Russian ruble remains Georgia's monetary unit, and the government intends to reach a situation where the ruble's purchasing power in Georgia is only marginally different from its level in the rest of the ruble zone. It is planned that, if nothing else, purchasing capacity should approximate the average level across Russia.

The outlook for the first stage of the program gives the republic's population hope that the situation will be stabilized. Unfortunately, new holes will have to be made in order to tighten that belt just a little further.

Government Postpones Natural Gas Price Increase

OW2805172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Tansmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Sarke news agency of Georgia reports that the Georgian Government has today decided to postpone its planned increase in the prices for natural gas. It originally planned to raise them on June 1—from 5 to 50 kopeks per cubic meter for the population and from one ruble to 2.45 rubles per cubic meter for enterprises.

Georgia, which receives all its gas from CIS countries, has for several days been getting none of it owing to an economic blockade on the part of South Ossetia.

Shortages Disrupt Power Supplies

LD2805170592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1217 GMT 28 May 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—Staffers of the Georgian power supply Amalgamation Gruzenergo said that the cutting off of Turkmenian natural gas supply from the side of North Ossetia adversely affected the Georgian power supply system.

Leriy Dzneladze, chief engineer of Gruzenergo, told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the Tbilisi hydropower station had 18.5 thousand tons [as received] of Mazout as reserve fuel by 10.00 on May 27. If the station daily consumes 4.5 thousand tons of fuel, this amount of fuel will be enough only for 4-5 days with taking into account the fact that 2.5 thousand tons more Mazout will be supplied in two days, Dzneladze said.

Almost all hydropower stations are now functioning in the republic, Dzneladze said. Khram hydroelectric power station does not operate as it reservoir is being filled with water. Electricity supply to Eastern Georgia from Inguriy hydropower station was disrupted as electric transmission lines were exploded. The supply of electricity from Azerbaijan may stop as Georgia owes to Azerbaijan 200 million rubles. Through the fault of consumers the total sum of Georgia's debt is no less than one billion rubles.

Otar Kvilitaya, Georgian acting first deputy premier, said that Georgia now receives about one million cubic meters of gas from Azerbaijan a day, but 15 times more gas is required. The volume of fuel received is supplied to bakeries, which, using also Mazout, try to supply enough bread to the population. In addition to the agreed upon volume of gas, Azerbaijan expressed the readiness to pass on from Russia the Turkmenian gas which is Georgia's due. Regarding this, there was a telephone conversation on May 26 between acting Georgian Prime-Minister Tengiz Sigua and Russian Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar who promised a positive decision.

Germany's Genscher Bids Farewell to Shevardnadze

OW2605223592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2059 GMT 26 May 92

[Prepared by Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko; from "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Chairman of the Georgian State Council Eduard Shevardnadze received a letter from German Minister of Foreign Affairs Hans-Dietrich Genscher in which the latter is extending his gratitude to Mr Shevardnadze for the warm words on the occasion of his birthday.

In his missive, Mr Genscher reveals that he is leaving the post of German Minister of Foreign Affairs which he has been holding for 18 years. "In the years of my tenure in office, I have long been looking forward to the realization of my long nurtured dream—reunification of Germany—and my dream has come true," he writes. "It is with a feeling of acknowledgement that I recall our numerous meetings on our way toward this goal. We managed to overcome the historical borderline which symbolically separated the Soviet and German peoples. The partnership of those who were facing one another across the negotiations table eventually evolved into a personal friendship".

Hans-Dietrich Genscher pledges to apply all of his efforts to complete the unification of Europe eastwardly. "I am happy to have found by my side a person who shares my views," he emphasized.

Mr Genscher has wished success to Eduard Shevardnadze in fulfilling his complicated mission at his new appointment and expressed confidence that "Georgia is sure to embark on the way toward peace and democracy, thereby contributing to the cause of stabilizing the situation in the Caucasus region". The German Foreign Minister noted that Germany attaches much importance to Georgia's expeditious acceptance in the CSCE.

In summation, Mr Genscher assured Eduard Shevardnadze that his resignation from the state office does not presuppose his parting with politics. "As a deputy of German Bundestag, I will continue to support my government in pursuing its highly responsible policy," he concluded.

Turkey's Cetin Visit Termed 'Historic Turn'

LD2605150692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0630 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] The official visit to Georgia by Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin was a new and historic turn in the development and strengthening of friendly and neighborly relations with Turkey.

Hikmet Cetin stressed that the Turkish Government and the Turkish people attach great significance to strengthening friendly and business contacts with Georgia, and that the signing of diplomatic agreements will become the foundation for close cooperation, mutual understanding, and neighborly relations between Georgia and Turkey.

The minister expressed confidence that Georgia will occupy a worthy place among the countries of the European Community and other international structures.

Mr. Cetin discussed, among other questions, the situation in the region, ways to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict, and prospects for the development of countries of the former Soviet Union, including the future of the armed forces and nuclear arms.

Mr. Hikmet Cetin was received by Georgian State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze.

The ceremony at which documents on the establishment of diplomatic relations between Georgia and Turkey were signed was an important landmark in the history of relations between the two countries and neighbors.

Turkey To Donate 50,000 Tonnes of Grain

OW2805173392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 28 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sarke reports that Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin informed the Chairman of the State Council of Georgia, Eduard Shevardnadze, in a telephone conversation yesterday that the Turkish Government had decided to provide Georgia with 50,000 tonnes of grain free of charge.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Addresses Deputies: 'We Are Sinking'

LD2605143592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0709 GMT 26 May 92

[Speech by Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis to the Lithuanian parliament meeting in Vilnius—live]

[Text] Esteemed colleagues, deputies: I would like to express several thoughts and conclusions here to you and to Lithuania about the recent referendum and about the general situation of Lithuania.

The political content of the referendum is the verification of trust. About 70 percent of citizens who took part in the voting expressed their support for the Sajudis Coalition for Democratic Lithuania, and, if you like, for Vytautas Landsbergis. There were not enough votes for the law to be adopted, but if it was an election, then by Western standards the opinion of the citizens would have been assessed as greatly representing and convincing. All this has been achieved in spite of the most strange computer and organizational mishaps such as the lists of nonexistent residents, all the shouting urging people to say no, and all the calls for saying no heard from the press, the radio and television, and leaflets.

How many of those nos are there—barely 25 percent of the votes. This is not just a few. Therefore, some social and political basis does exist. With 25 percent support one should not be straining after absolute power. Political forces that have 25 percent support should be aspiring for cooperation and not usurpation.

Meanwhile, the processes that are taking place here in our parliament paint a picture of destruction and threat to the entire life of the country, casting a cloud over the newly sprung vitality and initiative. People want and hope to live in a new way with their responsibility, beliefs, and joy. We should look at ourselves and around us and give an honest answer to one question: Are we not being dragged backward to partocratic rule, to the suppression of the word, to the self-will and corruption of officials, to the powerless law and order bodies, to state dependence, and to the restoration of the old regime with a new name?

The attempt to get hold of some support, a stronger state institution, and a decision not to postpone this attempt has arisen from the realization that we are sinking. This was a referendum after which we would have proceeded to presidential elections. While proceeding in this direction we would have set up new political programs for today, not those of 1990. The competition of these programs in the further choice of the citizens would have been initiated. We could have regulated and normalized political tension within the next few months. This opportunity has been missed. I must say that the rescue action has been disrupted and that the sinking is continuing. It may even become more speedy.

Voices and impatient utterances from some of the deputies from the left-wing majority who are especially active can already be heard. Lacking democratic traditions and tolerance, one should not be surprised if the left-wing bloc expresses a desire to take control over everything from beginning to end, with no aversion about destroying some things in the course and therefore taking control over the government and the Presidium of the Supreme Council and the last commissions that have not been yet taken over completely. They would destroy state control, the commission for the investigation of the activities of the KGB in Lithuania, the Supreme Council security service, put the Republican Election Commission under their subordination, and even subordinate the daily LIETUVOS AIDAS—the only opposition paper with a wide circulation. In this way they would have a political monopoly over the press again and return a political monopoly and control over radio and television. Following this, when all the most important press, radio and television, the inactive Supreme Council and the government, the reliable election commission, and the powerless courts of law have been taken over, then it would be possible to arrange yet another election to the People's Seimas [allusion to the elections in 1940].

This process should be patiently observed and blessed by the chairman of the Supreme Council, which would later be discarded anyway, be it Landsbergis or Motieka. This can be labelled a creeping coup d'etat with attempts to lend it an illusion of legality.

What forces and what interests are sponsoring this process which manifests itself by luring away deputies or luring them back again? Resisting the desovietization and de-KGBzation is one of the factors that concerns more than one well-known left-wing deputy. The above can be resisted either by demanding such set limits to the restrictions until it becomes an absurdity, which is done by one small faction, or by destroying the commission for the investigation of the KGB activity, which has been independent until now. After the daily LIETUVOS AIDAS have been taken over, such publications like those about Kliugeris [suspected KGB agent Algis Klimaitis] and the artificial oppositions set up by him in Lithuania published in the series "The Cobweb" would no longer appear.

Russia's military and other interests in Lithuania are another factor. We have heard on more than one occasion that over there a more favorable government is expected here in Vilnius to agree not to demand a quick withdrawal of the troops; this government would bring Lithuania closer to the CIS. This prospect causes great concern in Lithuania; therefore, neither sharp protests nor questions should cause surprise. After repeated direct questions, we heard at last the answer from the leader of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party. The party is firmly resolved not to enter any deals that would tie up or restrict our independence and our sovereignty. It is a pity that no concrete specifications have been rendered here. This is not a document on behalf of the party which would place greater obligations on the party. It is a pity that in the past deals were struck. The question concerns not just one party but all the left-wing bloc and the future of Lithuania. Can it be that fear and adapting oneself has crept back into the hearts of those who once were so independent? Who is with you, deputies? It is those who have been slowly drawn in and who are currently taking part in the process of sinking. I do not doubt that some of you are mistaken and mislead, but have been afraid to dissociate yourselves from clearly illegal actions bearing your signatures. At least two deputies have admitted this in private and one more deputy decided to take his signature back.

Therefore, with whom and around what is the left-wing axis turning? The basis of this is the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party which is well experienced, rallied, and well organized. The future of Lithuania can by no means be placed in the hands of this party, especially with its current leadership.

Here is a document dated 3 May 1990. This was the time of Gorbachev's blockade. This is the report from the archives of the head of Gorbachev's apparatus. (Boldin). Here is the translation:

Esteemed Vladimir Aleksandrovich: I had a telephone call from Taplin, deputy head of the Lithuanian KGB in Vilnius. Yesterday the authorized person, in quotes, and Sakalauskas, in brackets, met Brazauskas on a fishing trip. The latter said that the events will reach a peak at about 15 or 20 May. The supplies are about to run out. There is only one way out: to dissolve parliament, since the present composition will not remove Landsbergis and Prunskiene from power. However, there is a problem. What pretext can be used? It may be provided by the facts about the falsification of the elections by the Sajudis. Apparently these facts are at the disposal of the Lithuanian Communist Party, but Brazauskas is silent about this. During the conversation Brazauskas also came out with the following: After the dissolution of parliament some form of control is needed; it can even be presidential. The republic must be saved.

Now here it is in original language: [remainder of paragraph in Russian] I had a telephone call from Taplin, deputy chairman of the KGB of Lithuania in Vilnius. Yesterday the authorized person, Sakalauskas, had a meeting with Brazauskas while on a fishing trip. The latter said that the climax of the events would come on 15 or 20 May. Supplies are running out. There is only one way ,out—the dissolution of parliament, since its present composition will not remove Landsbergis and Prunskiene from power. The problem is the pretext. It may be provided by facts about the falsification of the elections by the Sajudis. The Communist Party of Lithuania apparently has such facts at its disposal, but Brazauskas is silent about this. During the conversation Brazauskas also came out with this phrase: After the dissolution of parliament some form of government will be needed, even presidential. The republic must be saved.

Attention should be drawn to the salvation of Lithuania for which even Gorbachev's violent presidential rule would be suitable, and to the forged data about the falsification of the 1990 election.

Very strange lists of residents for the last Lithuanian referendum compel one to think that there might have been two possibilities provided, both for a positive and for an insufficient result of the voting. The Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party had has been making noise in advance that there would be falsifications. We must be concerned about the 14 June referendum, or what I propose to call the general expression of the will of the citizens on the withdrawal of foreign troops this year.

I return once again to the process taking place in our parliament, which could be called a creeping coup d'etat with great dangers for democracy and independence. I guess that those attaching themselves to the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party expect to obtain more power inside Lithuania. This attracts them, but maybe they do not see the dangerous limit beyond which one will or could sink into the Commonwealth. I feel that it is my duty to tell you about this. You will make a decision in a responsible manner.

What should we do as a parliament responsible for Lithuania's future? First of all, we should issue a proposal to the majority. Give up the temptation of a coalition with the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party which is trying to seize everything, do not struggle against those fighting as it is done by Balys Gajauskas or Kazimieras Uoka, but help them. I am knocking here on the door of everyone's conscience.

It would be best to freeze for the next three months the status quo of the present structures, but not necessarily freezing the chairman or a minister. I really do not intend to cover up the coup d'etat if it continues. The deputies of the present majority should think about what will happen if they have to force four Sajudis factions into a parliamentary resistance and if they can risk unknown processes in the society.

Let us elect the seimas as soon as possible. I propose to do this in August, maybe on 23 August as the Estonians intend to do. Thus our astonishingly peaceful four-year revolution would be concluded as a singing and not a creeping revolution, with trust in people who vote. The seimas must be elected according to the present law, on the same principle that is well established in France, Great Britain, the United States, and Canada. A well-known prime minister or party leader there may lose to his competitor and nobody dramatizes it.

It is essential to elect a Lithuanian seimas in which the deputies have the trust of the people. Are there no farmers, clergymen, businessmen, exiles, freedom fighters, scientists, or true potessionals from trade unions numbering 100 to 140 people who cannot be corrupted by either money or the glitter of power? Let us elect them for one year in order to adopt a new Lithuanian constitution, conclude basic reforms, and see off foreign troops.

About 40 percent of Lithuanain citizens wanted to elect the president this year. Such was the aim of the Sajudis coalition For Democratic Lithuania. I supported it. A president elected by the people would fill in the present gap in the government and, as a link, would embrace both governing lines—legislative and executive. In our situation it is very important that the president help to avoid crises or ease them and step up their elimination. Such a president is in the United States, France, and Finland. The same could be in Lithuania, but this time too many electors remained passive. The chairman of the Supreme Council, as you know, has no power to issue orders or directions on the scale of the country, but still faces the whole responsibility and blame if something is not in order.

For over two years I have been a very convenient target for all the domestic propaganda of political competitors. They failed to deliver salt to the countryside—blame Landsbergis. This is no longer laughable. The same happens in the Supreme Council. There is a powerful radiance of hatred by some individual colleagues. I am feeling this and wondering at the secrets of human nature.

At present, it would seem, one should strive for urgent contact with Boris Yeltsin, with Stanislav Shushkevich, step up a declaration with Germany, and prepare for the Helsinki summit conference in July. All our partners may ask whether they are dealing with a stable state leader. To me this situation is not acceptable. You had a simple test—to raise the card of recalling the chairman by two-thirds of votes because I was elected by such a majority. You might have then had a more stable chairman to execute Lithuania's international policy, but it seems you did not want it.

Currently our whole policy may take a different direction, both inside and outside. Therefore I will make my decision when I see your chosen path of action. My proposals are known. I propose to discuss them without delay. We either stop together the creeping coup d'etat and advance with honor toward the elections of the seimas or you do it without me. Thank you for your attention.

I propose to have an interval for consideration.

Deputy Reacts to Landsbergis 'Slinging Mud'

LD2605144992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0727 GMT 26 May 92

[Speech by Lithuanian Deputy Eduardas Vilkas to the Lithuanian parliament meeting in Vilnius—live]

[Text] First I would like to thank the deputies for their endurance while the chairman was slinging mud at us. I think that the results of the referendum should be assessed completely differently.

In truth the chairman is responsible for the nation being set against one another and so many millions being spent. A decent politician would resign after that. Let us leave this on his conscience.

The referendum showed that Lithuania has cured itself of bolshevism and has made a very serious step toward Europe. We should be very pleased about this.

I do not think that we will make attempts at confrontation or to use the results of this referendum in some way. We said before the referendum that our aim was to prepare a constitution, to come to a Seimas election, and to come to presidential elections with a prepared constitution.

Thank you.

Reply to 'Unfoended Accusations' Issued

LD2605151192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0840 GMT 26 May 92

[Speech by Lithuanian Deputy Brazauskas to the Lithuanian Supreme Council meeting in Vilnius—live]

[Text] Esteemed colleagues deputies! I regret very much that the chairman is not present in the hall following this short review, but I think that the thoughts I intend to state here will be passed on to him. There were many stern words which have not been said recently in this complex political situation. I would like to use my time to give concrete replies to those absolutely unfounded accusations of our party, of the parliamentry majority today, and of myself personally.

The Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party has experienced a difficult period of time, a period when the issue of Lithuania's independence was being solved. In all situations we have been having our say and taking an active part in defending the cause of Lithuania's independence and its sovereignty, both political and economic. I do not think that the chairman can supply even one argument or fact that this has not been the case—and not just verbally, but with proof that could be a legal basis for such accusations.

The very fact of seperation [from the CPSU], the proclamation of the act of independence, 13 January, the putsch—in all these very complex events for Lithuania we have been together; we have been in this hall; we have been defending our common cause. To us, such accusations are not only slander but a very deep insult to the whole group of people who are following a honorable, open political line. Why is opposition bad in a cultured and civilized state? It is a completely normal phenomenon. Why should this normal phenomenon be assessed as abnormal?

Today we are forgetting what is happening in Lithuania, how people live, what their living standard is, how they are being defended socially, and in which direction our economy is advancing. Instead we are constantly engaged in all the matters that only mislead the people of Lithuania and disturb our tranquility and our normal life. To use the name of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party as some kind of bugaboo and some basis to intimidate people is, to say the least, not honorable.

Now about the majority. Colleagues, you are sitting here and have made your statements today. Were these statements written by us? Are they not a balanced opinion of your factions and parties stated in a firm voice today? Did we exert some influence on you in these matters? Can you say this? I think that you cannot say this. Each faction has its own clear line and follows it. I think that these statements and this stand in the Supreme Council are by people who have noticed what is being done to our country, what is being done to our people, where we are going, what we have achieved, and what we have so far not achieved. All this should serve as a basis for all those discussions with the Presidium and the chairman of the Supreme Council, who should explain why all this is happening and why the results of the referendum are as they are. Speaking today about the referendum, why do we forget that 1.14 million ballots were eliminated because the electors did not come? Why do we not talk about them? This means about 40 percent of all the electors. We do not wish to mention this today.

I think that Lithuania has seen the light. Sometimes in this honorable struggle one should be able to lose sometimes, to seek reasons why this happened, to attempt to correct the situation, and then to occupy leading positions. On the whole, the search for traitors and enemies has reached a climax in our country. This is becoming an abnormal phenomenon in our political life.

Seeing the policy of confrontation, this morning and yesterday the representatives of factions decided that political ambitions should be abolished, that attention should be focused on the problems that are especially harmful to our economy, and that the government crisis should be resolved. These decisions are annulled by speeches such as that by the chairman of the Supreme Council delivered today.

Is the struggle for power more important than the fate of our people, their interests, or the prestige of Lithuania in the eyes of the world states?

I think that today's speech by the chairman of the Supreme Council, full of accusations and threats, is a link in the chain of all other steps taken lately. I think that if we attempt to be an honorable state understood by other states, we must use honorable methods of political competition. I think that if the chairman of the Supreme Council used such methods with honor, this would not happen. On the whole, if the use of the present methods continues, I doubt very much whether there will be people to take part in an honorable competitive political struggle. The competitive method of political struggle is accepted in the world, and I think we should return to it.

Turning to the sensational report about Taplin and Boldin, criminals against the Lithuanian people and against Russia and other former Soviet republics, is slander and nothing else. Can we now oppose each other, or even put each other in prison by making use of these slanderous reports of one KGB man to another KGB man while they were alone? Heresay comes to this rostrum and becomes a basis for accusation. I categorically reject this statement about Taplin and others and consider it to be dishonorable for such a report to come from this rostrum.

I thank you for your attention.

Sajudis Statement Warns of 'Silent Coup'

LD2605232992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1600 GMT 26 May 92

[Statement read by Deputy Saulius Saltnis, Sajudis faction member]

[Text] Statement by Deputies of the Lithuanian Sajudis Coalition for a Democratic Lithuania.

A silent and treacherous coup is taking place in Lithuania. Having allied itself to the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, the new majority has initiated (?its) actions, seeking to regain its lost power.

Attempts are under way to paralyze by various means the only newspaper which to date had not belonged to the leftists, LIETUVOS AIDAS, and to control the radio and television.

In the same manner, as in January of last year, first an attack is initiated against democracy from the massive communication media.

Preparations are underway to remove the Government of Lithuania, Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, and to take over into their own hands the commission for investigation of KGB activity and state control.

They have (?ensured) that the draft constitution proposal supported by Sajudis would not be officially published and have deprived the people of an opportunity to select a model of democracy.

The Supreme Council is becoming similar to the people's Seimas of 1940. The deputies of the Sajudis Coalition for a Democratic Lithuania, refusing to have resolutions adopted in their name that are disastrous for Lithuania and believing that the only decent and legal way out is a Seimas election no later than [word indistinct] month, in accordance with the existing laws, have resolved not to participate temporarily in the Supreme Council sessions in which illegal protocol-type resolutions that no longer express the will of the people of Lithuania are being adopted on behalf of the entire Supreme Council.

Thank you.

Deputy Blames Landsbergis for 'Confrontation'

LD2605173992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0732 GMT 26 May 92

[Statement read by Sajudis faction Deputy Aloizas Sakalas]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The policy of confrontation started by the third Sajudis and its honorary chairman which is based on the theory of two forces, left and right, and two classes has suffered a complete political fiasco. Attempts to belittle the Supreme Council and to demonstrate that it does not reflect the political spectrum of the people of Lithuania did not yield the expected results.

Speaking on behalf of the nation, the leader of the third Sajudis has also suffered a defeat. The expectations of the consultations with the nation—on the steps of the Mazvydas library, railing at the enemies of the nation and elevating one person in the world, as one deputy speaking there who is called president put it—have not been justified.

Even the prime minister's letter of resignation which was aimed at stressing the importance of the necessity of a strong hand and the strengthened state controller with similar intentions did not influence the Lithuanian public. [passage omitted]

Having lost so much time we have regained the possibility of holding discussions on the Supreme Council draft constitution and to prepare the laws so that the foundations are laid for the fourth Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. [passage omitted]

The results of the referendum are a serious warning to the chairman of the Supreme Council for the consequences of the confrontation policy. The chairman of the Supreme Council must essentially revise his positions and must take on the responsibility for future constructive decisions aimed at the improvement of the political stance of all the citizens of Lithuania. The balance of political interests is the basis for the achievements of the policies of Lithuania, which is compulsory to an official who is in the post of the chairman of the Supreme Council. [passage omitted]

Sajudis Deputy Urges Leaders To Resign

LD2605170692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0732 GMT 26 May 92

[Statement by Sajudis faction Deputy Vaitienkunas]

[Excerpts] The 23 May referendum on the introduction of the autocratic regime in Lithuania, which was proposed and organized by the ultra right-wing political forces of Lithuania, did not yield the expected results. The numerous myths which were created and given to our citizens during the period of two years have now been dispersed and rejected.

First, the system and the ideology of two confronting forces—the pro-communists and the Sajudis supporters, which was actively pressed on the people—failed. The policy of polarizing the nation, introducing a split in it and searching for enemies did not receive the citizen's support. [passage omitted] The results of the referendum showed them that the division line does not run between the communists and the Sajudists but between the democrats and the autocrats. [passage omitted]

The results of the referendum do not signify the communist coup d'etat at the Supreme Council, they mean a full fiasco of the ultra right-wing political forces and this has been recorded on a scale of the entire Lithuanian nation. [passage omitted] I urge the leaders not to deepen the confrontation, to renounce the already existing confrontation policy and to resign. [passage omitted]

Landsbergis Concerned Over Russian 'Invasion'

LD2605200292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1800 GMT 26 May 92

[Excerpt] Press spokesman Audrius Azubalis met correspondents at the Supreme Council today and briefed them on a statement by Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis. The statement notes:

Disregarding the Lithuanian Republic's protests and demands, new, not-yet-large, Russian Army contingents continue to be brought into Lithuania without her approval; activity of this type, engaged in by the Russian leadership without the Lithuanian state's approval, should be assessed as an invasion of a sovereign country's territory; the Russian military authorities do not honor the Russian Federation's pledge to honor Lithuania's sovereignty.

The Lithuanian Supreme Council chairman expressed his special concern over reports he has received on the threat of a new, large deployment of Russian Army contingents into Lithuania. He expressed the hope that Russia will abstain from such actions and from any type of demonstrations of (?force). [passage omitted] [Moscow ITAR-TASS in English at 1735 GMT on 26 May 92 reports: "Any transfer of large military units from Russia to Lithuanian territory is out of the question.

"Only soldiers, who have completed the term of their military service, will be replaced by new draftees in order to provide for normal routine of the north-western group of forces, a representative of the Russian Defence Ministry's press center told ITAR-TASS today.

"A reason for the statement was a report of some mass media on the Lithuanian leadership's concern over alleged transfer of large Russian troops to Lithuanian territory.

"The representative stressed soldiers are replaced to prevent the situation when there will be none to guard armament and materiel storages.

"The withdrawal of the major groups of Russian forces from the territory of the Baltics is planned to be done after the completion of withdrawal of troops from Germany and Poland.

"The final term of withdrawal will be established during negotiations between delegations from Russia and the Baltic states."]

Vagnorius Gives 'Constrained' Resignation Letter

LD2805154292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0910 GMT 28 May 92

[Address by Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius at the Lithuanian Supreme Council in Vilnius—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Of course this address and my letter of resignation has not been submitted of my own free will, this is a constrained letter of resignation. The politicians normally resign both when they fail to achieve something and when they are not allowed to achieve something that has to be achieved. In this case the main reason why I submitted my resignation is that you compel me to resign and do not allow me to carry out my duties. [passage omitted]

The situation in Lithuania is a complex one, however, it is complicated not because the people of Lithuania have lost hope and belief in a better life or that they have lost the wish and determination to set up a better life; it is because of the new majority in the Supreme Council. [passage omitted]

What is it that Lithuania needs most of all today? I think it needs order most of all. That is why we have been proposing all this year to allow us to restructure the work of the local governments, to allow us to restructure the work of the executive power, to restructure the work of the law and order bodies, to dismiss certain local governments which cannot ensure functioning any more. We asked you to adopt a law which would strengthen the responsibility of officials, we asked you to grant the government at least the elementary rights during the period of reforms to actively implement its policies. We asked you to help the organs of the Internal Affairs Ministry and other bodies of law and order adopting the laws on urgent actions and other indispensable laws.

However, our words were found meaningless here. Some say that we wanted to introduce a dictatorship. This is wrong. We wanted the only thing and that is order and creating the conditions so that everybody unconditionally would have to observe the laws. [passage omitted] You did not reject just one or two laws, you have practically rejected all the most important laws by which we were aspiring to strengthen the state and to restore the basic order.

I must say this clearly today that this has been done consciously, because in order to provoke people's dissatisfaction disorder had to be created. However, I am not sure that the dissatisfaction of the people will be directed at those deputies who are not present in this hall today or against the government which is compelled to resign. [passage omitted]

What state officials and workers of the law and order organs does Lithuanian state need? It needs qualified, principled and honest ones, and there are many such people in Lithuania. However, who are you defending? You are simply blocking the sacking of dishonest, incompetent and unprincipled specialists. You impede the sacking of those who have committed crudest violations, those who are inactive or whose actions are directed in the opposite direction. I am unable to say today that Lithuania will be able to ensure the fuel supplies because no doubts have been left about the fact that the action to prevent the signing of the required agreements by 1 June was a deliberate action, although the intergovernmental agreements between the Lithuanian and Russian Governments have been achieved. [passage omitted]

Lately the laws and the proposals of the government resulting from the confirmed program of the government's work have been simply either not submitted for discussion or simply rejected. Instead, incidental amendments to the already functioning laws which did not always conform to the spirit of reform were adopted. We cannot be responsible today for the situation both in the budget and the finance spheres. We cannot carry out an active agricultural reform, we cannot ensure a normal hard currency supply and the collection of taxes because we failed to receive support here on these most simple and most general issues. [passage omitted]

Most of you support the introduction of Litas. The contract for printing the Lithuanian currency has been delayed by a year. The printing of one of the most important denominations, the medium denomination of banknotes, and that of 100 Litas banknote, have been consciously delayed. One does not have to be a specialist in order to understand what it means to have the currency printed with the medium denomination banknotes missing. One does not have to be a specialist to understand what it means when the currency printing contract is changed without the consent of the government. [passage omitted]

The dissatisfaction with the present government and its policy voiced by the supporters of fraudulent business and dishonest government is fully understandable as is their desire to somehow compromise the goveronment and its leaders while spreading various fabrications or while attempting to set up some ostensible, but very much needed, violations. [passage omitted]

Concluding my address I would like to stress the following point once again: This government is being overthrown not by the people of Lithuania but by you whom I boldly label as the communist bloc. I do not find it such a great misfortune to be overthrown by you. I will continue to work where I can be useful and will assist those who are interested in work. I would like you to regard this address as my letter of resignation (? and I ask you simply to put up your hands and take a vote on it).

Economic Minister Proposed To Head Government

LD2605230392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 26 May 92

[Text] Deputy Kazimieras Antanavicius presented a proposal today concerning the prime minister's resignation. In the absence of Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius from the session, the discussion and voting regarding this question have been postponed until Thursday [28 May].

Kazimieras Antanavicius proposed, inter alia, that the government leadership should be offerred to Economic Minister Albertas Simenas. Deputy Kazimieras Antanavicius also proposed the cancellation of certain government decrees, according to which it probably had allocated state funds illegally and also had sought to ensure particularly good compensation for parliamentary deputies, government members, and certain other officials in the aftermath of their loss of these positions.

Prime Minister Vagnorius, having probably heard the argumentation by Deputy Kazimieras Antanavicius over the radio, today signed a new decree annulling an earlier one, and one that will cost considerably less if the parliament does not protest that one as well.